Sunday, April 29, 2007 ++ 116 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 148 P30

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P&F chopper crash
in Lapu-Lapu City kills nine, misses Ping Lacson
NEWS / A2

Junior Inquirer comes of age.
Installed by the Unicef in its Hall of Fame for 'Outstanding Children's Newspaper/ Section' the past 5 years, JI starting this Sunday comes together for an expanded, 8-page **Inquirer Comics** for a lot more family fun. Enjoy!

What's sexy?
It's confidence, it's sense of humor, Bono singing Cole Porter's 'Night and Day,' it's different things to different people.
SUNDAY MAGAZINE

PHILIPPINE Sunday INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS FEARLESS VIEWS

THE THINGS WE DID LAST SUMMER. The magnificence of Boracay served backdrops akin to an idyll for those who lived it's paradise to enjoy their sport in one of the most idyllic tourist destinations in the world. —VEA KALAW

Priest stirs people power

Rich, poor rally behind Father Eddie in Pampanga

By Tonnie Ocejo
Inquirer General Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—BECAUSE OF HIS COMpassion' active and heartwarming involvement in the crusade for good governance, Fr. Eddie Panlilio considers the battle "half-won."

Said former Bulacan Rep. Willie Nolasco, "I have been in politics since 1967. This is the first time I've seen an outpouring of support without [color coding] and without political operators, solely by volunteers who want to restore decency and righteousness in government."

"Bilisangpulitiko (It's 'fast-training')" was how he described the sight of people lining the streets, cheering, cheering, even weeping, as Panlilio passed.

"There's moral victory already because many Kapampangan are standing up for what is right and good," the 53-year-old priest seeking the governorship of Pampanga says as the final campaign period enters its fourth week.

Indeed they are.

In contrast, on a wheelchair pushed by his wife Grecenia, Atty. Sanchez makes the rounds of his neighbors' homes in Mabalacat town to distribute Panlilio's campaign leaflets.

Where Sanchez, 77, a diabetic amputee, got the leaflets is another story. It turned out that his neighbor, homemaker Mayocenta Pamal, 64, spent her life savings to have 60,000 leaflets printed.

In the capital San Fernando, some tinker Dominga Gutierrez, 69, gets on his trusty bike almost daily to reach as many households as he can to campaign for Panlilio.

Jeepney driver Mario Carreyro does his mind for by posting the priest's campaign stickers for all his passengers to see.

In Panlilio's campaign headquarters here, Senator Joseph Estrada, 13, and Simone Ojeda II, 12, have given up their summer vacation to wield the magnetic

SHEET A/3

VOLUNTEERS Simone Estrada, 13, and Ronnie Ojeda, 12, give up their vacation.

Lucy Torres: Life with Richard not perfect, but ideal

By Boyet Sin-Dingo jr.
Entertainment

PHOTOGRAPHED BY RICHARD GOMEZ. Lucy and Juliana

Julia's murder 'solved, case closed'

By Melvin Gascon in Digos
and Alcuin Papa in Manila

CAMP JOAQUIN DURIAN, LAGUNA, Digos—The principal suspect in the killing of UP Mass Comm professor Julia Campbell said he beat her to death in a merciless moment of anger.

"My mind went blank," Jose Donald Dominguez Jose Barrogan, an earlier unjacketed said in a statement issued to police. "I did not know who she was or what she was. I got a rock and I hit her on the head. If I can change my body for hers, I will do it. But that's not possible. Whatever punishment you will impose on me, I will accept it."

Dominguez said his anger was directed at a neighbor, whom he identified as Bradshaw Blue and described as baffling other residents in their village in Sasad, Banawa town.

He said it was almost dark on April 8 when someone bumped him from behind as he was walking home carrying a sack of rambutan.

"I tried to pick up the contents of the sack, but since it was dark [that] I was angry, so I picked up the rock and hit the person with it," he said.

Police investigators yesterday commended getting information from Barrogan to the presence of lawyer Marilou Lawsin-Eubanel from the Public Assistance's Office in Laguna.

Dominguez was also fingerprinted and photographed.

The 25-year-old woodcarver was turned in by his mother to the police on Friday afternoon, 19 days after Campbell was last seen alive on April 8.

With Barrogan's surrender and confession, Regine police are considering the case solved.

Senior Supt. Pedro Garcia Hagan police commander, told the business in Manila that murder charges were being prepared against Barrogan.

"We are still taking the statement up to now. We can file the charges on Monday, or next Sunday, if we are done," Garcia said in a phone interview.

He said police were "morally convinced" of Barrogan's guilt.

"He now it's case-closed," he said. Barrogan said in his statement that

[illegible] A/4

Top gun leads 1st all-woman SWAT team

By Yolanda Sonido-Fuerzas
Inquirer Northern Luzon

THE TOUGH GETS GOING. Rappelling down head first is not style was the most difficult during training, says PO1 Shayne Garcia who is now an expert.

3 US war vets return to relive top-secret run

By DJ Yap

[illegible] A/3

'If you love patola, you'll love Pichay'

By Rizalina P. Arao in Mindanao and Cynthia D. Baluca in Manila

Only on Sundays: PDI will cost P20
starting today due to the rising costs of newsprint (by 10.24%) and operating expenses (by 12.7%) since our last cover price hike in 2004. With the price hike, we commit to double our efforts for the PDI to make a difference in your Sunday.

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mild night, cloudy and showery all summer, mostly cloudy skies in the afternoon and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with occasional rains or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Cotabato	Partly Cloudy
Dagupan	Partly Cloudy	Surigao	Partly Cloudy
Catbalogan	Partly Cloudy	General Santos	Partly Cloudy

PAF chopper crash kills 9, misses Ping

By Tarra Quismundo

A MILITARY HELICOPTER on its way back to base from a training flight crashed on a road in Lagro, Lupac City at 5:55 p.m. yesterday killing at least nine persons, the Philippine Air Force (PAF) said.

Sec. Eduardo "Ping" Ermita was in a van on his way to the house of the outgoing mayor of Lupac City when the helicopter crashed 30 meters behind his convoy.

He didn't realize that there was an accident until they reached their destination.

"There were no explosions. The chopper didn't explode and there were no fires," he said.

Citing initial reports from the PAF base in Marilan, Gen. Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Tolentino said the helicopter, a UH-1H, crashed once two tricycles traversing a road in Sitio Gina, Barangay Hunong Hunong in Lupac Lupac City.

"They (Air Force men) had finished a training flight and were on their way back to base when the crash happened. ... I have ordered an investigation into the incident but right now I cannot say what caused the crash," Tolentino told the Inquirer by phone.

Tolentino said nine persons—seven civilians and two Air Force personnel—were killed in the incident.

The Philippine National Police Aviation Security Group (PNP-AVSEG), which has a detachment in Illurtan, reported that seven persons died in the crash, five of them civilians and two military men.

The identities of those killed were not immediately known.

The helicopter was conducting night exits and two crewmen at the time of the accident, the first fatal military aircraft accident this year, Tolentino said.

Ermita was on his way to the residence at that at least we can give initial assistance to the families of those who died. He'll provide the necessary help to the families," said Tolentino, speaking from PAF headquarters at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City.

Pilot Lieutenant in the rite was fellow unsuccessful candidate Luciano Bandon, who noticed that "a chopper was flying too low" behind Ermita.

"I just realized that we could go to meeting. We were scared but I felt easy for those who perished," said Lucas, who was the provincial commander of Cotabato before his exit from the PNP.

Vidal said there appeared some lag a few seconds, it could have been in, and recall it here," he added.

Asked if the ill-fated aircraft was in flying shape for the morning flight, Tolentino said, "All our helicopters are certified-cleared. For sure, we'll not fly them if they are not. We monitor if they are old, they are well-supported in terms of spare parts."

Comelec places Nueva Ecija under its control after shootout

By Arnaldo Monjas, Inquirer Central Luzon and Gilbert Tandoc Jr.

CABANATUAN CITY—THE COMMISSION on Elections yesterday placed Nueva Ecija under its control and recalled all gun ban exemptions issued to residents after two people and a dozen more were injured in the worst outbreak of violence in the run-up to the May 14 elections.

Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Jr. traveled to the province yesterday to check on police operations and help prevent rival political supporters from attacking each other.

Abalos, who heads the Comelec team in charge of Central Luzon, said he will appoint "a team that will govern ... Nueva Ecija."

He said Task Force Nueva Ecija will include key police officials, the provincial treasurer and other people to be named later.

Abalos said he represented in the field by the provincial election supervisor.

On Thursday, two people were killed in a clash between security forces of politicians Jaja Bengzon and Mayor Aurelio Umali, the illustrated mayor of Aurelio Umali.

A candidate for town councilor said a police lieutenant were killed while 22 others, including Mark Lawrence and Mark Anthony, the two sons of Inquirer who are also candidates for local posts, were wounded in what is believed to be the single bloodiest incident in the current election campaign.

Abalos said he had to place Nueva Ecija under Comelec control to prevent incidents [illegible] of violence.

"We are only doing this because it is necessary," he said. He clarified that the provincial government would remain in control of day-to-day operations other than security, which would be taken over by security forces deployed by the Comelec.

Abalos said more police and military forces would be deployed in the province.

"People will be taking orders from the team. I have requested for purposes of peace and order," Abalos said.

Nueva Ecija became the second province, after Abra, to be placed under Comelec control. Local officials said this was the first time Nueva Ecija was placed under Comelec control.

Gen. Teresa Joson III said he had spoken with Abalos and confirmed that he had agreed to the setup.

"The Comelec will put [enforcers] in my authority over the civilian government," he said.

Esquivel hurting over sons' fate but won't shed a tear

By Ariyo dela Cruz

IN A PLACE LIKE JAIN, SUBIA, Iloilo, where politics is associated with blood feuds and vendetta killings, the downcast town mayor does not display any emotion even though only some hours before, his two sons almost perished under a hail of gunfire.

Antonio Esquivel said that his two sons—Ronald Lawrence, nicknamed "Boy," 32, and the world's running for vice mayor of Jaro, and Mark Anthony, "Tony Boy," 27 and running for councilor—were wanted to be in politics.

He admitted that he had insisted that the two give up their computer jobs and to jump into the political scene, at a time when he was pilloried against the political influence of Liampo Boy Rodolfo Hernandez was surging.

"They are obedient sons. They really had set themselves against politics. But, of course, it is my wish that should be followed. And so they are there in their lives into the ring," Esquivel said.

Esquivel recounted the events on the night of April 26 in Barangay Dungolan as he saw them.

He said his son were seated in the back row of his House Francia when they were "sprayed with bullets" just after 10 in the evening.

The Nissan Patrol was the front car, according to Esquivel. Trailing it were a police vehicle and a Toyota Revo.

Esquivel insisted that no politics was exchanged between his group and that of Jain mayor's. He also said there was an ambuscade on the road, contrary to the claim of Antonio. He said that the attack on their convoy was deliberate.

"They were just standing there, their weapons close, near the place where they were having a discussion when the gunfire erupted. Some of the gunmen were headed home from the supply Patrol after our event coincide when gunfire rained on us.

"I noticed our driver not to ramp on the brakes, just to speed up, but he was hit in the nape. So I held the steering wheel and he stepped on the gas.

"My two sons were hit in the front compartment. My son on the rear, but I still managed to ride the vehicle home," Esquivel said.

A source in the Antonio camp, however, disputed the account, saying it was Esquivel's armed "group" who first fired on the convoy before heading home to [illegible] where they were [illegible] to attack.

Esquivel said his sons were [illegible] where they were prepared and were dead to do something. The motorcade camp merely swarmed," the source said.

Esquivel said until the vehicles which carried their sons were peppered with bullets. But until police investigation identify eight vehicles were riddled with bullets from high-powered firearms, including vehicles of the Antonio camp.

Esquivel said his son and bodyguards were given first aid at the Iloilo Doctors General Hospital in nearby San Jerusalem from, like one later subsequently taken to the Cardinal Santos Medical Center in Mandaluyong City where they underwent surgery.

At the time, Esquivel said, a son Epoy (the eldest son, who had the most serious wound). He was hit in the head, he said, but the wound did not prove to be fatal.

"Why should I worry?" he asked. "Why should I show regret? I couldn't predict that the threat log would happen. It was unexpected.

"But this is the life I chose. Pleasing is considered in politics. It only gives your enemy a chance to plot."

But after a say of coffee, he changed tone as he talked of his three role in the ordeals. I wish I didn't let them accompany me. I could have ridden alone. Maybe that would have been all right at my own."

A reporter tried to explain to his mayor's reaction in the interview. "That's just the way he is. You cannot make him cry. He can hurt, but he will not shed a tear."

Comelec set to probe own lawyers in alleged scam

By Edson C. Tavera Jr.

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (Comelec) on Friday started investigation into one of its own lawyers who was allegedly involved in the peddling of posts for accreditations and nominations in the May elections.

"The investigation is ongoing. That new allegation will be included," Commissioner Resurreccion Borra said, referring to the lawyer's involvement.

The Comelec ordered its law department to conduct an investigation after news about the alleged organized party-list lining, implicating officials from one office in Mandaluyong, broke out last week.

On Friday, a lawyer for a party-list group said the selling of posts for slots also involved people within the Comelec.

He said that two lawyers holding key positions in the Comelec were involved in the alleged scam, asking for P500,000 in exchange for their services.

Not good for poll body

"These allegations are not good for the commission. They should be investigated," Commissioner Borra said in an interview yesterday.

"They (lawyers) should be identified. The appropriate penalty should be meted out for those (who) are involved," he said.

It was Garparino who wrote a memo to the Comelec en banc last week, recommending that the alleged fixing of party-list accreditations be included in the Comelec agenda.

Comelec spokesperson James Arthur Jimenez denied the accusers in some memos: "The names of the two lawyers should be revealed," he said.

The party-list group however only doubted who identified and one of the two lawyers belonged to the office of a prominent Comelec commissioner while the other was identified with former Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, the alleged architect of cheating in the 2004 elections that came to be known as the "Hello Garci" scandal.

Inside link

Regardless, the two Comelec lawyers served as the "inside link" of another group of "big-time lawyers" involved in negotiations for party-list accreditation and nomination, the source said.

Jimenez revealed that both "very well" about the allegations. "That the commission has started its own investigation is a good step," he said.

It would have been better if the party-list organizations were crying foul had exposed the scheme much earlier as it would have been addressed early on, he added.

"They should have approached us before. I would have immediately looked into these allegations," Jimenez said.

The commissioner said he would check if the law department could release the results of its investigation by next week. "I hope they can complete (the investigation) before the elections," he added.

Security chief Gonzales wants nominees named

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE GOVERNMENT'S TOP SECURITY official yesterday backed the calls for the publication of the names of party-list group nominees, stating the people had the right to know who were the personalities who would eventually sit in Congress.

"First implementation to [to an] step all known," said National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, who denied he was a nominee of one party-list group.

Gonzales said he also wanted to know who are the party-list nominees were and if "communist fronters" were among them.

Making the names of the nominees public would also benefit those who were suspicious that some party-list groups were "fishtanking fronts," Gonzales said.

"I'm for the publication of the names because while it's the organizations that are running in the elections, the personalities are who come who will sit in Congress," Gonzales said in a phone interview.

Gonzales said those accusing party-list groups of being "fishtanking fronts" would also know for certain whether their suspicions were correct.

Some left-leaning organizations accused Gonzales of setting up party-list groups to win seats seats in Congress for the administration. Alerts were also raised that some nominees were not even members of the sector they claimed to represent.

For example, the brother of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, a doctor, was reportedly a nominee of a group of tricycle drivers.

Former Senate President Jovito Salonga and Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales had filed a petition asking the Supreme Court to compel the Comelec to reveal the party-list nominees.

The Comelec has refused to publish the names of the nominees, saying the party-list election was "not an election of personalities."

He said he believed commission could not be behind some party-list groups, which he did not identify.

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Cops kill 5 truck hijack suspects in Valenzuela

By Nancy Carvajal

FIVE SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF a criminal syndicate victimizing cargo trucks were killed in a shootout with police in Valenzuela City on Good Friday, a police official said.

Supt. Rafael Santiago, head of the Northern Police District Intelligence and Investigation Division (NDIID), identified three of the five fatalities as Wilson Ang, the group's alleged leader, a certain Mario, a former member of the Marines, and a certain Wilson.

Assisted was Virgilio Illescas, 28, who was positively identified by his victims in one of the suspects.

The suspects had forcibly taken cargo truck loaded with phone units and were about to deliver the stolen goods to Concentrix Trading located on the Sun Cyber Road in Barangay St. Cruz when Quezon City police officers intercepted them.

Santiago said the owner of the trucking company, Gemmy Lee, and three Chinese nationals who were allegedly the buyers of the stolen materials were also arrested.

The Chinese nationals were identified as Liao Chun, Yanlin Chen and Wilson Chang, who all claimed to be from Fujian, China.

"The suspects while trying to escape fired at us as we were about to apprehend them," Santiago said.

No policeman was hurt in the encounter, but two patrol cars were peppered with bullets, the DIIDchief said.

Santiago said the suspects were also tied up to police.

The suspects had been involved in hijacking of trucks loaded with mobile phones and computer units in Valenzuela City, Quezon City, Caloocan City, Malabon City and Pasay City, the police official said.

Santiago said the group was responsible for the hijacking of a truck carrying pharmaceuticals along Mindanao Road, also in Valenzuela City.

Trucks carrying items which is good to manufacturer plants are usual targets of hijackers because of the high demand for the material, Santiago said.

Designer loses SUV in Makati

THREE DAYS AFTER TWO armed men seized the luxury vehicle of fashion designer Rajo Laurel, Makati City police have yet to come up with suspects.

Makati police chief Gilbert Cruz said he notified Southern Police District headquarters about the theft of Laurel's Toyota Prado on Wednesday night.

"We are still trying to verify the reported incident. We also have to look on the identity of the suspects in the," Cruz told the Inquirer in an interview.

Laurel, a top fashion designer, said his driver reported the incident to the police just a few minutes after two armed men forcibly took the black SUV with Plate No. ZSD-825 at around midnight on Wednesday.

The designer said he was having a few drinks with some friends at Cabrini-Gallo Restaurant in Rubens Robinson, parked the car along Leviste Street in Legaspi Village.

Just before midnight, Laurel called up his driver to ask him to pick him up.

"But my driver wasn't answering his phone when I called him," the designer told the Inquirer over the phone.

Jodie M. Aurelio

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PNP on full alert for Labor Day

By Jikoy Pepe

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE will be on high alert throughout the country on Monday to make sure there will be no incidents in law and order as workers stage mass actions to mark Labor Day.

PNP Director General Oscar Calderon ordered the police in Metro Manila to go "full alert" and those in other parts of the country on "heightened alert" effective noon on Monday.

"Full alert" means all of the 27,000 policemen in Metro Manila must be at their posts at all times. "Heightened alert" means half of the police force must be at their posts at all times. The PNP has a total of 115,000 policemen all over the country.

Calderon noted that Labor Day coincides with the anniversary of the Makabayang siege of 2003, when thousands of supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada marched from the Edsa shrine to Mendiola and tried to storm the Palace.

The PNP chief said Metro Manila police must be on standby to thwart any possible attacks by terrorist groups who might take advantage of the mass actions.

Calderon ordered the activation of Task Force "Hanap-Buhay" for the security and contingency measures to be implemented on Labor Day.

Supt. Rommel Miranda, spokesperson of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO), said around 13,000 personnel will be placed on standby to prevent any destabilization attempts.

These include members of the NCRPO, the city Special Action Force, the Regions 3 and 4-A commands, the military's National Capital Region Command (NCRCom) and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP).

Elements from PNP Regions 1, 2 and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) are also on standby and ready to be sent to Metro Manila at its regional command bases.

Part of the force is made around 10 battalions of some 1,000 soldiers' police-mobile will be deployed to control the mass actions. They will be stationed at Liwasang Bonifacio, the Ayala Triangle and near Malacañang, the DFA (Foreign Affairs) and Department of Justice (DOJ) in Quezon City and the Makati City business district.

Miranda said they would adopt a "maximum tolerance" policy in dealing with protesters. He said police will also make sure that all "freedom parks" will be open for any protest action, he said.

"We will give them ample time to do the protest. But we will declare a (the protests) as (all) public. Rallies can only be held in freedom parks," he said.

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All - Europe Calling
A photographic exhibition by the German Embassy, Manila
• 25 April to 4 May
Alliance Française de Manille, 389 Haussen Subdv St., Barrio 2, Makati City
• 4 to 8 May
The British Council, 5/F Tuason Para, Bonifacio Ave., Dingga Comm, Pasay City

2007 World Press Photo Exhibit co-presented by The Royal Netherlands Embassy and Ateneo AXN
1 to 31 May • The Podium, 2338 Ortigas, Pasig City
10 to 24 May • SM Mall of Asia, Bay City, Pasay City
10 to 24 May • The Block, SM North EDSA, Quezon City
www.worldpressphoto.nl

European Car Show
1 to 27 May
Northern Hall, Annex, Northern Motor City

Food and Wine : A Taste of Europe
7 to 20 May
Greenbelt 3 Atrium City

"Esperanto l'Italia" Concert by Italian Pianist Rolando Mischol brought to you by the Italian Embassy Manila
10 May • 7:00 pm
Cultural Theatre, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City
www.ambmanila.esteri.it

Trio Wanderer (Classical Music) brought to you by Alliance Française de Manille and the French Embassy
14 May • 8:00 pm • Philam Life Theatre, UN Avenue, Manila
www.afmanila.ph

Emilio Ocmar (Classroom Music) brought to you by Alliance Française de Manille and the French Embassy
7 - May - 9:00 pm • Redwood Party, Redwood Plaza, Makati City
www.afmanila.ph

Objectif Paris (Photographic Exhibit) brought to you by Alliance Française de Manille and the French Embassy
23 May to 23 June • Ayala Museum, Makati City
www.afmanila.ph

Presentation of the Bilingual Book Anniversaire by Philippine Poet Edmundo Farolan
23 May • 7:00 pm • Instituto Cervantes, 883 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila
manila.cervantes.es

Roundtable Discussion on International Criminal Court (ICC) brought to you by the Embassy of Sweden
27 May • 9:00 am to 1:00 pm
www.swedenabroad.com/manila

Film Series: Focus on German Turkish Director Fatih Akin
10 to 30 May • 7:00 pm
Instituto Cervantes Manila, 2/F Ateneo de Manila University, J.P. Rizal Ext., Quezon City
www.goethe.de/manila

A Day with John Shelby
A Workshop by British Children's book illustrator John Shelby in cooperation with The Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators and the British Council
26 May • 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
The British Council, 5/F Tuason Para, Bonifacio Ave., Dingga Comm, Pasay City
www.britishcouncil.org/ph

Europe: A film focus on Contemporary Europe presented by Instituto Cervantes in collaboration with the Embassies of Spain and the French Republic
2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 June • 4:00 pm
Instituto Cervantes, 883 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila
manila.cervantes.es

European Union Rowing Cup coordinated by the Embassy of the United Kingdom
1 June • Sta. Ana Race Track, Manila

EUD-ite: Dance Performance by Erika (Kate- Zdebska presented by Instituto Cervantes
1 June • 7:00 pm
Main Theatre, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City
manila.cervantes.es

Transcendental Multiplex: (An) -the Century Philippine Costumes by The Royal Netherlands Embassy
4 to 18 June • Ayala Museum, Makati City
www.netherlandsembassy.ph

RCCP Golf Challenge
4 June • Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club, Laguna
www.eurocham.com

Pedestrian Crew (Hip Hop Dance) brought to you by Alliance Française de Manille and the French Embassy
8 June • 6:00 pm
Main Theatre, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Manila
www.afmanila.ph

French Film Festival brought to you by Alliance Française de Manille and the French Embassy
7 July - 17 June
Shang Cineplex, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, EDSA cor. Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
www.afmanila.ph

Seminar on Trafficking and Migration with Swedish Ambassador at Large against trafficking, Jonaini Oljelund
7 June • 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
www.swedenabroad.com/manila

Images of Germany (Deutschlandbilder): A Photographic Portrayal
7 to 21 June
Goethe-Institut Manila, 6/F Ateneo Cinema - 11 Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
www.goethe.de/manila

"The Host" Film Screening
8 June • 6:00 pm
The British Council, 5/F Tuason Para, Bonifacio Ave., Dingga Comm, Pasay City
www.britishcouncil.org/ph

Compagnie 111 (Modern Circus) brought to you by Alliance Française de Manille and the French Embassy
8 June • 7:30 pm
Main Theatre, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City
www.afmanila.ph

Symposium "Historia Speculi and its quest for a federal Europe: Lessons for the Future of Regional Integrations" by the Italian Embassy Manila
Time, Speaker, Ms. Florence Corradi
13 June • 9:00 am • Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
www.ambmanila.esteri.it

Ish Manila Jazz Festival brought to you by Alliance Française de Manille and the French Embassy
13 June • 6:00 pm
Sofitel Central Pavilion, CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Manila
www.afmanila.ph

Lecture by Spanish Novelist Ivana Zas Alameda "The Sister Era and the Reinvention of Language"
14 June • 7:00 pm • Instituto Cervantes, 883 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila
manila.cervantes.es

Oji Mazda (Electronic Music) brought to you by Alliance Française de Manille and the French Embassy
20 June • Ateneo Auditorium, The Area, Taguig City
www.afmanila.ph

MASTECH 2007 Food & Beverages Expo coordinated by the European Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines
20 June
Manila Trade Center, 50 Pasay Ave., Mandaluyong, Metro Manila
www.ecp.com

Europe Go 'to the-the-ter' Drawing Contest
28 June • 1:30 pm
The Podium, 4/28 Avenue, Pasig City
www.alliance.edu.ph

DJ Whiz
27 June • 8th Cup Cafe, Cubao City
www.alliance.edu.ph

Global Warming and its Effects on Southeast Asia brought to you by Goethe-Institut Manila
27 June • 7:00 pm
Goethe-Institut Auditorium, ACSC Area, Makati City

The European Legacy in the History of the Philippines brought to you by Goethe-Institut Manila
Lecture by Dr. Ambeth Ocampo • Ateneo de Manila University
28 June • 6:30 pm
www.goethe.de/manila

www.EUROPE.ph

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, April 29, 2007
4th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 13:14, 43-52
Ardency of the Jews

Paul and Barnabas went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. On the Sabbath they first entered the synagogue and sat down.

After that, when the assembly broke up, many Jews and devout God-fearing people followed Paul and to these they spoke, urging them to hold fast to the grace of God.

The following Sabbath almost the entire city gathered to listen to God, who spoke a fairly long time about the Lord. But the presence of such a crowd made the Jews envious. So they began to oppose with insults whatever Paul said.

Then Paul and Barnabas spoke out fearlessly, saying, "It was necessary that God's word be first proclaimed to you, but since you reject it and judge yourselves to be unworthy of eternal life, we turn to non-Jewish people. For thus we were commanded by the Lord: I have set you as a light to the peoples nations, so that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

Those who were not Jews hailed what they heard this and glorified the message of the Lord, and all those destined for eternal life believed in it. Thus the Word spread throughout the whole region.

Some of the Jews, however, incited God-fearing women of the upper class and the leading men of the city, as well, and stirred up an uproar against Paul and Barnabas and expelled them from their district. The apostles, for their part, shook the dust from their feet in protest against this people and went to Iconium, leaving the disciples filled with joy and holy Spirit.

Responsorial Psalm Revelation 7:9, 14-17
"The throne of the Lamb..."

After that I saw a great crowd, impossible to count, from every nation, race, people and tongue, standing before the throne and the Lamb, clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands.

I answered, "Sir, it is you who know this."

Then he explained, "They are those who have come out of the great persecution; they have washed their robes white in the blood of the Lamb.

This is why they stand before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his sanctuary.
He who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them.
Never again will they suffer hunger or thirst,
or be harmed by the sun or any scorching wind.
For the Lamb near the throne will be their Shepherd,
and he will bring them to springs of life-giving water,
and God will wipe away their tears."

Gospel: John 10:27-30
I give my sheep eternal life.

"My sheep hear my voice and I know them; they follow me and I give them eternal life. They shall never perish and no one will ever take them out of my hand. What the Father has given me is stronger than everything (unless one can snatch it) and (the Father) I (and the Father) are one."

Communion

Now, then, they (who turn the talking of the story of Paul and Barnabas as they begin to travel and preach the Gospel) & Antioch they are entertained by the (men and so they serve to the Jews) who are the (agents) and (delight and) (agents) to (agents) the persecutors to (entrance) agents. When they are expelled from the region, they (men on, filled with joy and the Spirit, shaking the dust) from their feet (against (when (they) (agents) (they) (agents) (they) (agents)

Youths create website for educated voting

By Mia Basarre
Contributor

AS A MEANS OF ENSURING ABSTRACT OF elections in the United States last year, Gina Navarrosa, 22, started the Outernet.

Through online databases and news websites, he was able to regularly track campaign and polling developments and be a few clicks of a button.

He felt that the easy access to information had aided Americans in making a more educated vote—a benefit not entirely available to Filipino voters.

"Most of the time, we rely on general impressions of our candidate, formed from sound bytes, catchy slogans and jingles in deciding who to vote for," he says, considering this to "the incontestable development informatively Filipino."

Influenced by the efforts of election-related websites, Navarrosa, together with other concerned youths, formed Vote.ph—a non-profit and non-partisan website which serves as an online source's guide to the May 14 elections.

What was initially a simple idea between concerned friends slowly germinated into a means of how to promote educated voting among Filipinos.

Active participation

The Vote.ph team, composed of college students, fresh graduates, and young professionals, believes the active participation of the youth in the electoral process is significant.

"Since no election is a one-human to ensure the continuance of our democracy the youth has a responsibility to ensure its prosecution and maintenance," says 21 year old Jowen Lim, Vote.ph political affairs director.

The website (http://www.vote.ph), containing candidate profiles and platforms, political commentary, updated election-related news stories, primers on national issues, and other relevant information, aims to encourage healthier voting habits.

Such an ambitious project, however, is not without its challenges.

Aside from constraints in budget and manpower, collecting data has become an arduous task. Campaigners, according to the group, are more than ill equipped, unreliable or unresponsive.

Door-to-door visits

The group has resorted to door-to-door visits at each of the campaign offices because of the lack of response to requests through e-mail, fax, and phone.

Research head JP Tevez, 25, admits it was disappointing. "You expect candidates to be prepared, to have gotten a lot of thought to what to present the voters. But it's nothing much. For underwhelmed, it's pretty much the same old stuff. They could've provided us with their profiles and platforms from long ago and we wouldn't be any wiser."

The group acknowledges the fact that only a small chunk of the Philippine population has access to the Internet, let alone a computer. However, Navarrosa points out that just the same, the medium at least there is still find an audience, no matter how small, including those that live abroad.

"If it promotes a healthy discourse about our future leaders, then we have fulfilled what we set out to do", he says.

Navarrosa adds that the website enables them to disseminate information in their respective young individuals.

The youth is the biggest voting bloc in the country and can effect the most change and influence in the polls, he points out.

"Though we live in a seemingly apathetic and disillusioned society, the youth embodies our source prerequisite for the success of reforms—idealism and the belief in the possibility of change and progress," Lim adds.

As May 14 that approaches, the Vote.ph team continues to hold their website. It is a constant work in progress.

Navarrosa hopes that the website will also encourage candidates to provide voters with a more substantive campaign, allowing their constituency to engage them in dialogue.

To visit (vote.ph), log on to http://www.vote.ph.

PROMOTING EDUCATED VOTING: The team behind Vote.ph

Gov't urged: Tap OFWs as source of investments

SEN. EDGARDO ANGARA HAS URGED THE government to capitalize on the remittances of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) as a viable investment source.

"Money in the range of $12.6 to $14 billion per year constitutes an awesome money pool which can be partly channeled into sound investments. And this can only be done by the OFWs' sanity if they are financially literate and they are well-armed with cautious investment choices," said Angara, who chairs the Senate Committee on Banks and Financial Institutions.

The environment Team Unity candidate said OFW remittances through formal sources amounted to more than $12 billion last year and are expected to reach more than $14 billion this year.

Angara, in a press statement, said that the remittances of the OFWs is much higher than the country's foreign direct investments and the money of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and sets as a motivation to find investment vehicles for OFW money "is a step in the right direction."

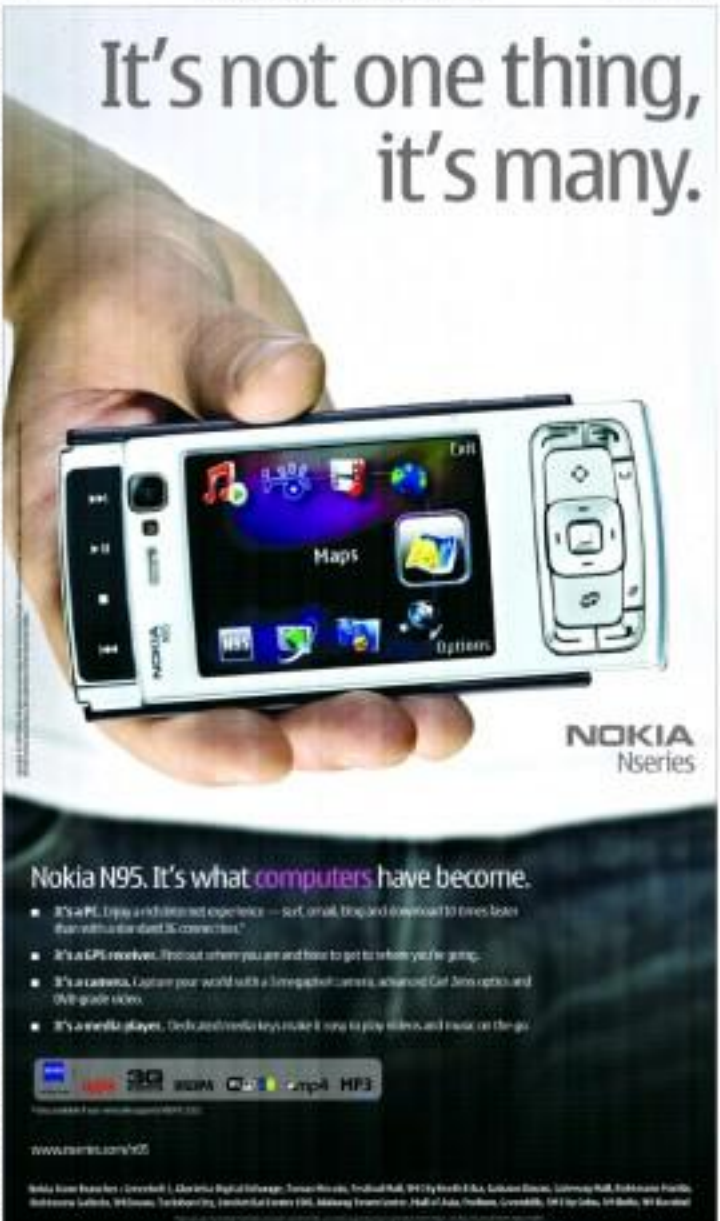
"Being a viable source of investment, our OFWs should be properly educated on key investment opportunities. The saving capacity, and the risks. Investing their excess funds (via stock) balance securities is one way of securing their future," Angara said.

Investment choices

He said the Philippine Overseas Employment agency should include crash courses on investing money and financial literacy in predeparture briefings for OFWs, so they can make better investment choices with their earnings abroad. He added that familiarity with investments opportunities and their rates of return will push the OFW into investing more money into sound investment schemes.

"Are there agri-businesses available? Are there contract-growing offers from the various agri-companies? Can they lease lands for sugar and pollow cane production? Can they buy government bonds which can yield better returns? What are economics of operating school buses? These and many more can be studied by OFWs if they have a means of investment options," said Angara.

Angara said that OFW money has been funding several business enterprises in the countryside, from trucking and transport, small-scale agri-aqua production, food processing, and hotel and restaurants.



Villar: No need to explain ballots

By Dona Pazvalingan

BIGACTIONDEF Sen. Manuel Villar said he did not feel compelled to explain himself to his Gregorio Ilagan opposition colleagues regarding an ingenious clue he had "pulled" his teammates in favor of administration candidates.

Villar denied the accusations, but not ignored that local candidates may have included him on their sample ballots which

E. Sanchez; 79

EDILBERTO "BERT" C. SANCHEZ OF BATANGAS and Wequinville, Las Piñas City, died on April 26 at the age of 79. He is survived by his wife Edna E. Sanchez; children and in-laws Jun (late) Minda, Nino and Rita; Mitzie and Lorenz, and Barb and Lalo; grandchildren Bella, Rita, Ashley, IA, Gio, Bia, Lorenz, Kitt, Martha and Jorik. His remains lie at La Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Parañaque City. Daily masses are held every morning. Interment will be on May 1, at Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, at 10 Hrs 9 a.m. Inquiries at Mass.

linked the names of Vice Town Unity candidates.

"I have no intention of explaining to them. I've never intervened in the politics of GO and I don't intend to do so. I don't care them an explanation," Villar said.

Villar, president of the Nacionalista Party, stressed that he was a mere "guest candidate" of GO.

GO leaders like Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Senator Loy, Emzon Marcelo and Liberal Party president Franklin Drilon reportedly

from his own sample ballots being distributed in Bulacan, Las Piñas City and Mandaluyong City but Villar's name along with those of administration candidates.

Villar said he did not print the sample ballots.

"It's a fact of life that local candidates endorse a mixed ticket. I am thankful to those who included my name in their sample ballots. Would anyone refuse?" he said.

He said he had seen sample ballots bearing the names of individual GO candidates that did not include the rest of the slate.

Villar said he is totally sure a sample ballot in General Santos City that had only the name of GO candidate Leon Leguda.

"But I carry all of my nominees, [in Iloilo] Oniu, Biliran, individual candidates, not GO. They know that," Villar said.

Villar, who won his first Senate ran over term in 2001 under the administration slate, recently reconciled with Arroyo. President Joseph Estrada, who recently handpicked the GO slate.

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Local absentee voting starts; abroad it's in full swing

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr. and Cynthia D. Balana

THEY ARE RIGHTFUL VOTERS, too: soldiers, policemen and government employees that take leave to take them in places other than where they are registered as election clerks.

Their voting for them comes early.

Yesterday was the first day of voting for the over 55,000 voters registered under the Local Absentee Voting system.

This weekend's voting will run up to tomorrow and resume on Friday, May 4, and end on Saturday, May 6, according to Commission on Elections spokesperson James Arthur Jimenez.

The Comelec noted the sharp increase in the number of local absentee voters this year—over 55,000 compared to 7,729 in the 2004 presidential election.

Applications for local absentee voting were submitted in March. The heads of the government offices and the military and police commanders concerned were to designate the time and place of voting, the Comelec said.

The ballots, each sealed in two envelopes, are to be transmitted to the Comelec main office in Intramuros, Manila, by election day, a Special Board of Election Inspectors formed by the Comelec would then count the votes.

The other system of absentee voting, meanwhile, is in full swing, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

This after Philippine missions abroad embarked on a campaign to promote Overseas Absentee Voting, the DFA said.

About half a million overseas Filipinos had registered to vote in the May 14 elections.

In the Netherlands, the Philippine Embassy in The Hague is reaching out to Filipinos there through a radio program, "Ate Jo," that serves the Filipino community and is sponsored by the Commission of Filipino Migrant Workers.

In the United Arab Emirates, Consul General Antonio Gus Mong said the consulate in Dubai was ready for the expected influx of voters following the conduct of a similar information campaign, this one over television on the program "The Global Pinoy."

Canvassing said he also wrote companies that employ large numbers of Filipinos asking that the workers be allowed time off to vote.

In Brunei Darussalam, Ambassador Virginia Benavidez and the embassy had started receiving ballots from voters there following an "aggressive information dissemination campaign."

In Ottawa, Canada, Chargé d'Affaires Joseph Genard Angeles said he and Second Secretary and Consul Blenida Rodrigues had installed their offices to encourage Filipino there to cast their votes.

Angeles said they went on the radio program "Tinig Pinoy" which caters to the Filipino community in Canada's National Capital Region (NCR).

They read out the names of the voters whose ballots were addressed to the embassy and instructed them on how to claim their ballots. They also explained the voting procedures by mail and in person.

PHILIPPINE Army soldiers cast their ballots in the Army Dasmariñas Bonifacio at the start of local absentee voting yesterday for soldiers, policemen and government employees who will be working on election day. Local absentee voting will end on May 6.

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Priest stirs people power; support pouring in

From page A1

sable, swearing or drinking in taverns and reproducing ethnic text forms.

In Lubao, the territory of Board Member Lilia Pineda, one of Pandilla's rivals, a number of women have donated a discreet way to campaign for the priest—through the "sisid" (underwear) brigade.

Then there's Apong Garcia, 84, a retired teacher in Magalang, who turned over to Pandilla the P1,000 she had received from a campaign coordinator of Pineda's.

Young or old, poor or wealthy, three people of President Macapagal-Arroyo's home province are "exercising their right to choose new politics," observes Bonilla.

New politics

He says his candidacy should "truly be seen as a symbol" of the crusade that, according to him, was related by Cardinal Jaime Sin "enjoined to the laity down to choices that represent what is wrong in governance."

Allen Rivera, 62, who chaired the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) in central Luzon from 1986 to 2004, says Pandilla has become a "powerful rallying figure for people who want to see real changes in Pampanga."

Rivera recalls the "people power"—he retrieved 21 years ago—of the Kapampangan breaking down their silence against Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship by joining protest rallies, guarding their votes for Corazon Aquino in the "snap" election, crippling the advance of loyalist troops at Bamban Bridge in the boundary of Pampanga and Tarlac, and going all the way to Edsa to defend rebel troops and oust Marcos' cronies.

The stories of Kapampangan going all out for their priest-candidate herald "their eye-catching for a good and credible leader," Rivera says.

"They want Pandilla to lead Pampanga out of the quagmire of unresolved issues, like corruption and 'hatong,'" he says, referring to the controversies linked to both Pineda (wife of suspected jueteng lord Rodolfo "Kuya" Pineda) and reelectionist Gov. Mark Lapid (son of Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid).

People power again

The cancer-stricken Bishop pitted Pandilla's volunteers last week, wanting to contribute the knowledge and skills he gathered in over two decades of work with Caritas.

"I am filled with hope," he says. "It's people power all over again in Pampanga."

Accounts gathered by or reported to the bracelet-silenced as much.

Market vendors contribute vegetables, meat, fish and condiments to feed Pandilla's volunteers.

Tricycle and jeepney drivers turn their vehicles into shoestring offices.

Kapampangan living in the United States and Europe are using email donations for idle batteries from volunteers back home who reach out text messages to their kin.

Bonilla, businessmen, architects, doctors and nurses host fund-raising dinners.

Pastors of various religious groups rally for Pandilla in their respective congregations.

Government workers quietly raise funds from among their co-employees.

Techies use the Internet, constructing blogs and websites for their candidate and uploading his videos on the YouTube.

The lack of money is not an obstacle for Bonilla's pro-support era. They are creative with the limited funds they have, making strategies out of a rice sack and using chewed to entice shoppers.

Bishop's statement

The aficionados have photocopied the March 31 pastoral statement of Archbishop Paciano Aniceto urging voters to "reject evil, choose the good."

Translated into Filipino by a group of teachers, the three-page statement is distributed like a subversive document.

More than 2,000 vehicle owners took part in a nationwide unfiender Sunday, hoping their own gasoline, water and meals for the daylong event.

Bonilla are reproducing and posting Pandilla's campaign materials on the facades of their homes and in their neighborhoods.

Bikers protest-hit, touting the province while wearing his campaign shirts (for sale to raise more funds).

At the congress of 2,000 youth leaders on April 9, they chanted his name and clapped wildly as he stepped out of the gym.

Promises and promises of conversion are being sold.

A number of politicians have stopped campaigning for Lapid or Pineda. A very few have dared display Pandilla's posters in their doorsteps.

Conversion

Dr. Ate Espiritu has taken a leave as provincial area director and council member of the Complan for Christ to work full time as the priest's campaign. "I want to help him make the final push," Espiritu says.

Lawyers...51 as of Friday...are volunteering free legal services instead of joining office campaigns, where fees supposedly range from P40,000 to P50,000 for 45-day work, according to Dante David, head of Pandilla's legal team.

"I did not have a hard time recruiting them. All are willing, quite many and united," David says.

Dante, in lieu of the Philippines' prominent election lawyers—Romulo Macalintal, Dicky Bellosillo, Lolita de Lima and Ben Quiniza—who volunteered their services to protect Pandilla from election fraud.

Ed de Mesa, who has retired from "The Firm," was one of the early enlistees.

The "White Campaign"—specifically white ribbons tied on gates, lampposts and vehicles—is an expression of support for Pandilla.

It illustrates how the confidence and fear supporters have stirred from the traditional political campaigning.

That's a priest has to look public office is an "indictment of the system," according to Fr. Rony Lumasdan, SVD, chair of the Save Pampanga Movement.

He is Pandilla being hashed on the basis of his being a man of the cloth?

Says Allan Rivera: "His priesthood may have added to his charisma, but not all priests have that charisma. You must remember he has been in people empowerment work. Bahay! pa se mase [He's been immersed in the masses]."

Pandilla's public duties limit to be involved in parish and social action work. At one time, he was theology director of the Mother of Good Counsel Seminary.

He has served as executive director of the Roman Catholic Church's Social Action Center of Pampanga since its days as the Commission on Population and Social ministry Association in 1984.

He founded the Tinio Hog Fattening Kapampangan Inc., which promoted the poor people's Guinness Book in the province, helping 10,000 women go into micro-enterprises.

'Like a saint'

He helped organize the Multipurpose, an alliance of nongovernment organizations, to be able to maximize the services of development agencies.

In Congress, the priest that Pandilla had entered still he took a leave on March 26, he enjoys "a wide following," David says, who sing what he has seen since 1999.

Among Til is looked up to like a saint in provinces, he seeks barefoot. He visits the sick and elderly. He goes around on his motorcycle. There's no element of luxury in his lifestyle. His bedroom is decent, but not air-conditioned. He joins basketball games of where they have drinking sprees—drinking Soda, though. He joins the basketball games of the youth. During Holy Week, he helped himself in the kitchen, not by washing the dishes but by the bean. He's very down-to-earth."

Crescencia Sanchez says she will give her one vote to Pandilla because he is "a good priest."

Apong Garcia says she sees in Pandilla "a good candidate."

"I want him at the capitol so there can be change, so our situation will improve," she says.

To Pandilla, the patronage politics that has become accepted as fact of life in Philippine elections has to be overcome.

How his supporters can beat the many odds will spell the difference.

But Ding Bonilla says, a professor of ethics and religion, says hope is not lost, even among the poor voters.

"There are two kinds of poor people. Because of poverty, there are those who are vulnerable to the manipulations of politicians. (But) there are also poor people who are principled," he says.

"With the way things are happening now in Pampanga, the poor, the middle class and the well-to-do, we're bold on to something good."

Julia's murder 'solved, case closed'

From page A1

he left Basud on April 10, telling his wife that he would visit his mother in the Bicol region.

In Cabanog, he asked his mother Jona for transportation to Naga City. She gave him P400.

In Naga, Dantugan moved from one place to another visiting friends and relatives.

He ultimately had to a bus in the middle of a chevron plantation on the Iriga-Naga Road. He answered on raw chayote tops and potatoes.

While in hiding, Dantugan narrated allegedly planted his number in Ramos to ask about the condition of his family.

He did not reveal his location, but mother said.

Dantugan said he decided to come out of hiding because he was being hardpressed by his conscience.

On April 25, he again phoned his mother and told her he wanted to surrender. He then called his uncle, PO3 Arnold Orduyan, and asked to be picked up in Baguio.

Orduyan said Dantugan had arrested his wife's relative and asked that he be detained in Iligan or a condition for his surrender.

Very scared

For his surrender, Dantugan said he got "extremely scared" after realizing that he had killed a female tourist.

He said it was out of fear that he dragged the body into a dried-up creek in the village.

He dug up the wall using a hole and buried Campbell.

"I grabbed everything I could lay my hands on and used those to bury the body," he said.

Chief Supt. Raul Gonzalez, police chief of the Cordillera Administrative Region, said investigators were preparing to return to the scene of the crime with Dantugan for a reenactment.

"We will also search the area for the murder weapon. This can be used as evidence in strengthening our case," Gonzalez said in a separate interview.

Gonzalez also said Dantugan would be taken to Manila on Monday for presentation to Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon, after which he would be returned to the Iligan police headquarters in Lagawe and detained.

Police account

From Dantugan's confession and the evidence gathered from the crime scene, police investigators gave this account of how the killing took place:

On April 8, Dantugan was on the way to deliver a sack of clothes for the wedding of the daughter of a friend's relative named Loreta.

At about 6 p.m., he noticed a person climbing into another village, the village of Ramos.

The person subsequently jumped him from behind, the sack of clothes he was carrying fell and its contents were scattered on the ground.

Thinking that the person was his enemy, Dantugan picked up a rock and hit the person on the head.

When he realized that he had attacked a foreign tourist, he pulled the body down a cliff. He used a bottle of mineral water he got from the person's possessions to wash the bloodstains on the road.

Dantugan then went home to take a bath. Later, he threw his used clothes over a cliff.

He returned to the site where he left the body at around 10:30 p.m. and dragged the body further down and into a dry creek.

He started the body using a hoe, with the person's cellphone as a source of light.

He returned home at around 1 a.m. on April 9.

Soft-spoken

Jake Dantugan described her son as a soft-spoken man who had never gotten into trouble before.

"I don't know why this had to happen," she said.

Jane said her son's family which included four children aged between two and seven, would temporarily stay with relatives in Barangay Pinong in Hingyon town, "until the problem dies down."

Grace, who said Campbell's family of seven in April and who was among the last people to see the American alive, said the family's small store in Basud would have to be tended by her younger sister.

Investigators ruled out rape and robbery as possible motives for the killing, citing Buntipan's confession and policeholders' findings in Manila saying that Campbell's body showed no signs of sexual assault.

Police had been holding on to six witnesses—the couple's boatload crew and two Dupagan farmers and tenants of the inn where Campbell was hosted, and three adults who said they saw Dantugan with Campbell's backpack after the murder.

'Isolated case'

In Manila, Tourism Secretary Ace Durano said that while it was an occasion for grief, the killing of Campbell had not scared travelers away from the world-famous Banaue Rice Terraces.

"I got a call tonight from our regional office in Banaue that rooms are still fully booked as of the end of May," Durano told the Inquirer.

Local Gov't had been both saddened and infuriated by the killing of Campbell. They also feared that the incident would scare off tourists and threaten their livelihood.

But Durano said no more reservations had been canceled in Banaue so far. He said the killing of Campbell was "an isolated case."

He also expressed support for a plan to come up with a local ordinance that would prohibit anyone walking up the mountain alone in Banaue.

"This is a good time—not to allow lone wilderers in a remote area. They should be in a group," he said. With a report from Edson C. Tandoc, Jr.

Top gun leads 1st all-woman ...

From page A1

still not graduate.

"And they did. Of All of them hit the bull's-eye," Tan said during the graduation ceremony where he was guest speaker. "I can say without hesitation that the batch, when confronted with a [challenging] situation, can handle [it] properly."

For instance, he said, a father holding his children hostage was a situation which, if mishandled, could result in the loss of lives.

Asked to cite subsequent of having an all-women SWAT team, Bernard said: "When confronted with a criminal, losing women, they can subdue the situation. But if the option is to attack, they can readily do so."

The women are also be deployed to areas where they are most needed, especially during the election period when "we are feeling the heat of controlling [political] parties," he added.

Some members will be assigned to the cities of Laoag (Ilocos Norte), Tuguegarao (Cagayan), San Fernando (La Union) and Urdaneta (Pangasinan).

On ordinary days, members of the SWAT team perform ordinary police work like patrolling and criminal arrest.

"But when difficult situations arise, they must be able to immediately re-group—re-adjust the mission—and quickly respond," Bernard said.

But women said the women underwent rigorous training on weapons handling so "they would know what to do when a weapon malfunctions or it runs out of bullets."

The team was trained on the following: firing (prone, kneeling, standing and awkward positions and shooting on the move), firing at multiple targets, judgmental firing, panic firing, blindfolded firing, arrest techniques, fire-fight/ambush assault and tactical operations and rappelling.

The members did not encounter any difficulty in firing. What made most of them cry was the rappelling, revealed Supts Malicdem, the class president.

"They were unable to rappel from the top of a building and "some started to cried," said Malicdem. "Some of the girls cannot pass and refused to rappel."

The most difficult to execute was the "hand rappel" where they had to go down head first. Chief Supt. Arlo Ares Dalagan said, "But after that first try, they have smashed and they were able do it again."

The women admitted that men were physically stronger in most aspects.

"But most of us do better in shooting because we train harder. Women have the will and the determination while some men just take things for granted because they know they are strong physically," Bernard said.

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1. College Transcript of Scholastic Records. However, if the applicant is graduating on March 2007, an official copy of temporary transcript containing college records from first year up to the first semester of the fourth year should be submitted instead;

2. Two (2) 2"x2" x 2½" colored ID pictures;

3. Two (2) Certificates of Good Moral Character with school seal:
a. For UST graduates, one of the certificates should come from the Office for the Student Affairs (OSA) and one from the Dean of the previous college;
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Note: ALL requirements must be submitted one (1) week before the examination date.

Application Schedule: Monday to Friday
9:00 am-12:00 nn; 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Examination Schedules: 8:00 am-12:00 nn
March 10, 2007; April 14, 2007 and May 4, 2007

Venue of Examination: Reading Room, Faculty of Civil Law, Ground Floor, UST Main Building

FOR INQUIRIES: VISIT THE DEAN'S OFFICE OR LOG ON TO OUR WEBSITE at www.ust.edu.ph, click on Academics or call 731-4027 or 4061611 local 8218.

Ilocanos dumping Defensor over remark, says Singson

VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR—Gov Luis "Chavit" Singson, a candidate for senator in the administration's Team Unity, said a group of Ilocanos were inclined to will not include TU candidate Michael Defensor in the senatorial ballot that the group will be distributing.

Singson said Defensor was trailing other senatorial aspirants only suggested that Singson give up his TU slot in favor of incumbent Gregorio Honasan, an independent senatorial candidate because the governor was doing poorly in pre-election surveys.

Singson said the Confederation of Ilocano Associations (CIA), which boasts 2.5 million members nationwide, will drop Defensor's name from their sample ballot.

"They should not do this to our fellow Ilocano," said Roger Pleasure, CIA head, who called Ilocanos to rally behind Singson.

The governor said Defensor had not even tried [illegible] to talk to Singson, "but I do not want to talk to him."

In Bulacan, Ilocanos said he did not support the Singson he dropped from the TU slate. Jennie Ballon Jr. and Frank Omaga, Inquirer Northern Luzon, and Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon

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INQUIRER

OPINION

War without end

INSTEAD OF EXPORTING DEMOCRACY TO IRAQ, perhaps US President George W. Bush should spend more of his time practicing it at home. After spirited debate, both the US Congress and the US Senate passed a bill linking an additional $124 billion in war funds to a non-binding deadline for the pullout of US troops in Iraq.

Bush, in his best post-September 11 manner, vowed to veto the bill. He warned Democrats, who now control the two chambers and who led the initiative to set a timetable for a pullout, not to test his will.

EDITORIAL

"If the Congress wants to test my will as to whether or not I'll accept the timetable for withdrawal, I won't accept one," he said at a press briefing at Camp David.

Bush, of course, can veto a bill he doesn't like. Unlike, say, his administration's unconstitutional treatment of the detainees in Guantanamo Bay, or his administration's illegal conduct of some aspects of the war on terror (such as renditions), or his administration's unethical mass dismissal of US Attorneys for partisan reasons (to name only three outrages; the list, unfortunately, is long), Bush, in exercising his veto power, perhaps as early as this week, is actually within his rights to do so.

But, all the same, the veto would be a terrible mistake.

He would be rejecting the American people's clear directive to change the course of the war in Iraq. That directive was communicated—unmistakably, unambiguously—in last November's mid-term elections, when, to quote Bush himself, his Republican party got a "shellacking."

That directive—or the American public's message, if you will—has held in the five months since the Democrats regained control of both houses of Congress. The surveys remain remarkably consistent, despite the inevitable intramurals within the winning party, and despite the Bush administration's stubborn insistence on implementing the "surge"—the introduction of more US troops into Iraq. The surveys say that the American public is dissatisfied with the war, disapproves of the Bush administration's conduct of it and supports a timetable for ending it.

When Bush misses the bill, therefore, he is deliberately turning his back on that directive. When he vis-a-vis dramatically confronts the Democratic-controlled Congress in what he inevitably calls a test of wills, he is in fact confronting the majority of Americans who do not want another war without end.

It is in this context, then, that we believe a veto, while legal, will be deeply undemocratic.

We must emphasize that this is not an issue of an unpopular leader bearing public scorn to do what needs to be done; we realize leadership often means persuading a reluctant or indifferent public to see things differently. Bush may flatter himself that this is the case now, that he is, naively, valiantly, fulfilling a promise, while everyone else, especially those unpatriotic Democrats, are proving yet again that they lack a backbone.

He would be mistaken. Bush is simply being stubborn, and heedless of the cost in American and Iraqi lives. He is also privileging his promise to see the war in Iraq through, over a higher promise: to serve the American people.

It is not as if, after six years in office, Bush's style of leadership remains a mystery. He is known to favor cronies ("You're doing a heckuva job, Brownie!"), to overlook evidence of gross incompetence (witness his circling-the-wagons defense of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, who is in a legal and moral mess because of the US Attorneys' scandal), or cynically manipulate intelligence to force-fit a ready conclusion (Iraq, of course, as even ex-Central Intelligence Director George Tenet admits in his new book, which comes out this week).

In other words, the world has reason to believe that Bush knows exactly what is at stake, in the Iraq spending bill, pullout bill and in other cases, and yet, wrapped in the American flag, uttering yet again the mantra that his political opposition gives comfort to the enemy, he will do what he wants to do anyway, and damn the consequences.

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Re-examining the 1987 Constitution

SEPARATE OPINION

Joaquin A. Cruz

THE INDISPENSABLE QUALITIES OF A GOOD written Constitution are brevity, comprehensiveness and clarity. Without these traits, it is like a serpent on the throne, inspiring traditional allegiance but not substantive obedience.

The Constitution must be lucid and neither itself to basic principles as to supplement with legislative details more adjustable to shifting popular sentiments and to petty political squabbles. Otherwise, it would be a prolix and voluminous reaffirmation of statutory rules inaccessible to the understanding or even only the interest of the people and unable to adapt orally to changing conditions because of the difficulty of their amendment.

It must be brief not only because it provides for the organization of the entire government and several all persons and things within the territory of the State, additionally, it is supposed to guarantee the history of the nation, reflect its present aspirations, and anticipate the future. The Constitution must be comprehensive enough to provide for every contingency in the life of the country both as an insular entity and as a member of the international community.

It must also be definite for ambiguity in its provisions results in confusion and disharmony among the people and perhaps plunges conflict and even civil war. Its meaning must not be clouded by uncertainty, fraternity or ill intention. The interpreter is bound only to draw every effort to find a definite and single meaning. But the Dire Process Clause, for there unfortunately in their interpretation to suit new conditions and circumstances.

The provisions of the good written Constitution are also generally regarded as self-executing, mandatory and preemptive unless otherwise specifically provided.

A provision is self-executing if it is complete in itself without need of necessary implementation. It is not as if it is remains dormant until the legislature chooses to embrace it through the passage of the necessary law. Such a provision awakens the Constitution itself because it [illegible] authorities the decision to obey or ignore its supposedly superior directives. There are, in reality and subtly enough, more suggestions from the principal to the subordinate who may disregard them at pleasure.

A mere also be mandatory and operate as a command ranking from the highest document embodying the supremacy of the Rule of Law his observance by the people. The Constitution is not a simple manual of instructions to be followed, or not at all, as they see fit in their discretion. The provisions of the Constitution should not be degraded as mere optional ordinances but as preeminent rules in the fundamental law of the land freely approved by the sovereign people.

The third rule is no less important. Unless it is clearly indicated, the Constitution must operate prospectively. Its provisions are meant to govern future conduct and not to be used to apply to accomplished transactions that should be sealed unalterable in the records of the past. This will be postponed only if it clearly substantiates that some of its specified provisions may operate retroactively and affect even vested rights, when it is necessary to correct serious human, ethical or moralist.

What if the Constitution does not conform to the above described virtues or characteristics of its provisions?

My forte the questions on this question is the eloquent urge that "the Constitution must be free and intelligible, like a covenant under the arch of sunrise or a rock in the street inside the raging of the storm." I am also impressed by Justice Benjamin Cardozo's gentle reminder that "the law that declares for the right is not the journey's end. The Constitution, like the statutes, must be ready for the morrow." Both are meant to be applied to different situations.

The Constitution should be regarded as eternal in greater where it retains substantial change throughout not by legislative mandate but only possible by the people's participation or consensual [illegible] with ideas or personalities. But the very virtue of permanence may at other times be a disadvantage when the set is not Constitution is unable to adjust to urgent changes brought about by new developments.

In such a situation, the Constitution will become an impediment rather than a spur to progress, a roadblock to the nation seeking to liberate itself from the shackles of obsolete rules no longer responsive to its present aspirations. If this happens, the people will have to summon or revise the provisions of the outdated document, and if they cannot make a new Constitution, they will have to make a restoration.

So how should we mend our the unrepairably defective but more or less revised provisions written the Constitution of 1987 after its operation during the last two decades? My personal view is that it should be re-examined and rewritten to make it, for one thing, less voluminous. It is high ethical [illegible] time have drafters ensure the mentors of the principal provisions, but I hope the electorate next May will reach them more intelligently.

Listen and obey

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A WIFE WHO rushed into her house screaming to her husband: "Darling, come quick! Your kids and my kids are beating up our kid!"

* * *

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday. In today's Gospel (Jn. 10, 27-30), Jesus, the Shepherd, speaks of the sheep who hear His voice and follow Him. The sheep who listen to Him and obey Him have peace, knowing Jesus who do not listen to Him and do not obey have confusion and conflict. If there is no harmony and discipline in your life, maybe you need to be more docile and obedient to the Good Shepherd.

* * *

"I only I listened and obeyed more," Dolphus, all of us can identify with this sigh of regret. It has to our promises, problems and conflicts would have been avoided or perhaps, minimized, if we were more submissive to God's will and precepts. The fruit of obedience is peace. The fruit of sin and disobedience is suffering and regret. This is a basic lesson in life. It is hoped that it is not a lesson too late for the learning.

* * *

Fr. Bernard Collaro, SVD, describes the Good Shepherd as a leader, protector, defender and provider of the flock. Those like us and aspiring for public service would do well today to emulate the traits of the Good Shepherd. To lead and not to: Mend the flock, to save and not to enslave them, to serve and not to use them; to feed and not to starve them; to listen and not to deceive them.

* * *

The Good Shepherd gives the life for His flock. Of course, we do not expect that from our leaders. Do we expect them to give us heaven on grandiose public service. Do we not want leaders who give us money during the elections, and get out misery once they are elected. The lessons line is sacrifice. Where sin where are the leaders who, like the Good Shepherd, know how to sacrifice?

* * *

Someone owned me that in the animal kingdom, a group of lions is called a "pride"; a group of wolves is called a "pack"; a group of sheep is called a "herd"; a group of fish is called a "school"; a group of whales is called a "gam"; a group of lions is called a "flock"; a group of crows is called a "convocation"; a group of baboons is called a "congress." Is that right?

* * *

The Good Shepherd expresses eternal life to His sheep. Today, the OFP anniversary (2003 William Soriano will be laid to rest at the Garden of the Divine Word in Christ the King Seminary, Quezon City. Willy was just having dinner with his wife and kids at a mall last Tuesday April 24 when he suddenly collapsed and by the we will able to walk to the clinic to have himself checked. A few minutes later, he had a seizure, then he was gone. Death came fast. "Like a thief in the night," Willy wasn't able to tell this world to receive eternal life from the Good Shepherd.

* * *

"Short, but full." This is how we would describe Willy who was one of the shortest in his class, but who lived a life that was full, beautiful, grateful and God-led. Willy was a spark-plug, ever ready to warm and ignite hearts with his humor, and ever willing to stretch and extend his helping hand.

* * *

In my Mass for Willy last Wednesday, I asked the congregation just to remember and share their "Memories with Willy." It was interesting and inspiring to hear the sharing that ranged, "From the earliest to the profane." What will people remember about you after you're gone? What will people tell about you? And what will you tell the Good Shepherd when you finally come before Him face to face?

* * *

Inviting you to our annual "Walk with God" to Marianup on Iram day May 5. The 9-hour walk begins with a prayer and blessing at 6 a.m. at the Cathedral of Urdaneta, Pangasinan. This year's walk is to pray for free, genuine, May 10 elections. We especially for peaceful and honest elections. Let us ask Mama Mary to give us good and sacrificing leaders in our land, of which we are shamefully lacking. Our Mass will be at 11 a.m. at the Shrine of Our Lady of Manaoag. Let us unite as one and offer prayers for our country and for our people, and for peace in the world.

* * *

May 1 is the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. We salute our laborers and workers and pray that they will receive their just reward and compensation. We pray too that government will be supportive of their simple hopes and dreams.

* * *

May is the month of Mama Mary. Let us learn from her to be docile and obedient to God's will. Be a Mother, the ministers to prepare everything for her children. Please don't forget her. She is a mother who loves, a mother who suffers, and a mother who hastens how to respond to us.

* * *

Read the call of the Good Shepherd. Join the SVD. Last vocation week is on May 6, 2007, 8:00 a.m. at Christ the King Mission Seminary, U. Northgate Ln Novaliches, Quezon City. For more inquiries, please contact the Vocation Director, 7264302 or 3000018 (SMS). Website: svdpacific.org/svd.com

* * *

The "Hospitable and Kindly Ex-Sisters' raffle draw of the SVDs has been reset to Sept. 8, 2007. For inquiries, please call 726-3002.

* * *

A message with the Lord:

Lord, give me a listening and obedient heart so that I can live a peaceful and fruitful life. Amen.

Is the bar exam still necessary?

WITH DUE RESPECT
Antonio T. Carpio
Jurgen Antho

A FEW DAYS AGO, ON APRIL 23, THE 1,911 LAW graduates who passed the 2006 bar examinations took their oaths as the Philippines' latest mixed batch of lawyers. I was there. They were more upset that the rule of "Ateneo first, honors next, after passing their dues to the benignant Sisi of the Philippines, presiding justice Artemio Panganiban.

Three persons outshone me. Incensed at the fact that I was not invited last year (nor this year, for that matter) to chair judicious, I was joined by the examinee Annie Angelica Sandoval-Gutierrez, to attend the ceremony. The medal in the PRC was pathetic and meaningless. The normally somber Supreme Court justices were more serious here. But the real treasure and thrill lured some, like militarists into the celebration of at least one point of study and years of preparatory fire, fear of law proper and our share of bar reviews. Of course, the expensive agonies were additional prizes.

The Bar Exam is the only test to pass the gate speaker during the 1,905 foundation day of the Philippine Bar Association (PBA). Born on the 8th, 1905, the PBA has a pedigreed tradition dating back to the planted dates of Apolinario Mabini, Felipe Calderon, Cayetano Arellano and Jose Abad Santos. Invited guest speaker Senate President Franklin Drilon, Ateneo de Manila '77 graduate and 1981 bar topnotcher, no halfing-ass president Eduardo Romulo, Edgardo Angara, Felipe Gozon, Eduardo de los Angeles, Teodoro Locsin, Florencio Villaraza, Antonio T. Carpio, Oscar Orbos, Rogelio Vinluan, Llewellyn Lizardo, Federico Agcaoili, Rolando delos Cameros, Lee Concio and Rita Linda Jimenez.

In both the PBA induction and the PBA celebration, there was one overarching conversation: the unused bar examinations. Although it burst already-devoted two columns—on the subject, I was requested to write on two more reasons never during these occasions.

Bar exam performance of schools. Women dance, who attended the induction, appreciated my prediction of the performance of the law schools (published in the same San Sunday), especially the compositions of the passing percentages for the 13-year period, 1993 to 2005. However, to those here the new schools hated and how the old ones improved to their performance, they requested an analysis of shorter bar exam review periods. I was enough.

For the 10-year period from 1998 to 2006, the national passing average according to the Office of the Bar Confidant was 28.48 percent. The following schools passed that figure: San Beda, 40.27; Ateneo, 40.07; University of Santo Tomas (UST), 36.19; University of San Carlos (USC), 34.45; Arellano University, 34.03; Far Eastern, 33.72; Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM), 31.26; Jesuit Universities (JU), 31.17; and Lyceum, 30.23.

For the five-year span, 2002 to 2006, the national passing percentage was 26.42. The following schools passed that figure: ADMU, 98.03; San Beda, 69.72; Ateneo, 69.67; University of Santo Tomas (UST), 56.19; University of San Carlos (USC), 54.45; Arellano University, 48.84; Far Eastern, 48.72; Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM), 43.26; Jesuit Universities (JU), 41.11; and Lyceum, 39.03.

For the five-year span, 2001 to 2005, the national passing percentage was 26.42. The following schools passed that figure: ADMU, 98.03; San Beda, 69.72; Ateneo, 69.67; University of Santo Tomas (UST), 56.19; University of San Carlos (USC), 54.45; Arellano University, 48.84; Far Eastern, 48.72; Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM), 43.26; Jesuit Universities (JU), 41.11; and Lyceum, 39.03.

For the five-year span, 2000 to 2004, the national passing percentage was 26.42. The following schools passed that figure: ADMU, 98.03; San Beda, 69.72; Ateneo, 69.67; University of Santo Tomas (UST), 56.19; University of San Carlos (USC), 54.45; Arellano University, 48.84; Far Eastern, 48.72; Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM), 43.26; Jesuit Universities (JU), 41.11; and Lyceum, 39.03.

For the five-year span, 1999 to 2003, the national passing percentage was 26.42. The following schools passed that figure: ADMU, 98.03; San Beda, 69.72; Ateneo, 69.67; University of Santo Tomas (UST), 56.19; University of San Carlos (USC), 54.45; Arellano University, 48.84; Far Eastern, 48.72; Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM), 43.26; Jesuit Universities (JU), 41.11; and Lyceum, 39.03.

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In

TALK of the TOWN

Phone and fax/Mark Ty
yahoo.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

What should be done to stop the killings?

Senatorial candidates	Extrajudicial killings	Attitude toward militant party-list groups
Edgardo Angara Team Unity	To solve the unsolved crimes we ought to improve investigation of the killings. Apprehending perpetrators is one of knowledge and can even discourage the other police-connected political threats and intimidations.	We need to consider this issue of bona fide party-list groups having to be validated after each election because the law makes it easier for undeserving groups to get elected. Let various fiscalizing sectors in our society ratify the nominations.
Rodolfo Dionisio "Rodong" Aquino III Lacson-Sotto ticket	Implement the recommendations of the Rule Commission and the Philippine National Police study to ensure objective investigation and prosecution of cases. Use a multi-sectoral approach in solving the extrajudicial problem in order to create a united, concerted approach.	Government should encourage the participation of groups for people with Left-wing orientation in the public consultative process rather than discard them from it as in the dictatorship.
Jejomar Binay Team Unity	Fully crediting him as an asset in our fight against the drug menace, I am appalled over the alleged involvement of Jaycee Lozada in the killing of Bubby Dacer and Salvador Dacer. I am also appalled over the alleged involvement of Gen. Jovito Palparan in the disappearance of Jonas Burgos. I am not in favor of any form of extrajudicial killings, whether it is done by the military or by the police. I am also not in favor of any form of violence, whether it is done by the military or by the police. I am also not in favor of any form of violence, whether it is done by the military or by the police.	When everything goes wrong with the system of democracy and elections, and the intrusion of illegal politics, when Congress cannot do its job, when the Supreme Court cannot do its job, when the Commission on Elections cannot do its job, when the Commission on Audit cannot do its job, when the Ombudsman cannot do its job, when the Commission on Human Rights cannot do its job, when the Office of the Solicitor General cannot do its job, when the Office of the Executive cannot do its job, when the Office of the President cannot do its job, when the Office of the Vice President cannot do its job, when the Office of the Secretary of Justice cannot do its job, when the Office of the Secretary of Interior and Local Government cannot do its job, when the Office of the Secretary of Defense cannot do its job, when the Office of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs cannot do its job, when the Office of the Secretary of Finance cannot do its job, when the Office of the Secretary of Trade and Industry cannot do its job, when the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture cannot do its job, when the Office of the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources cannot do its job, when the Office of the Secretary of Tourism cannot do its job, when the Office of the Secretary of Labor and Employment cannot do its job, when the Office of the Secretary of Health cannot do its job, when the Office of the Secretary of Education cannot do its job, when the Office of the Secretary of Science and Technology

INQUIRER Mindanao

'Good citizens choose good bets'

By Gerardine Lazaro
Korte City

FOR JESUIT PRIEST AND social anthropologist Albert Alejo, the May 14 elections is almost like a battle between good and evil. Good citizens support the good candidates as the first step to fight corruption.

"I don't wonder normal," Alejo urged voters. "Mahirap ito, nakakapagod ang mga nangyayari sa bansa (Indeed, this is a serious case, let's help the good candidates)."

Alejo leads the nationwide electoral reform movement called Ehem, whose battle cry "Walang tibingi!" (elect voters not to ask for any favor from politicians).

Voters should be critical, not "cynical" in the coming election, he said. After all, there are still some candidates who want to make a difference in the country although they may not have the clout or money to win.

"More than hating the bad candidates, we should support the good candidates," Alejo said.

The priest said the elections demanded integrity not only from the candidates but also from the voters, and that media should always help the public make informed decisions.

Nation at stake

"Be intelligent, our nation is at stake," Alejo said.

But the campaign has largely become a contest of personalities because political parties have failed to involve voters in intelligent discussions of issues, he said.

Alejo said no political party with consistent and clear visions and principles existed in Philippine democracy and the last somehow pushed the candidates to rely on personality appeal and families to win elections.

Boy Magno Torre, a Ilocog Bisdakanon convenor, said in a separate interview that political parties were only convenient vehicles for candidates to make tactical moves in recognition their personalities.

"Isn't working (Magkasi si mga partido (because there's nothing to save in parties)," said Alejo. "So a candidate gets elected only on the basis of popularity and makupot (winds). One can actually win by simple name recall."

Even the low maturity among voters is both a reason and the result of the failure of political parties to present a clear set of platforms and principles and genuine intelligent discussions during the last time. Alejo said political maturity among the voters "is something that is not taught in school."

Good citizenship

"We don't teach good citizenship in school," he said. "Just like charity, our citizenship begins at home and ends there, instead of going beyond the family to the community and the country."

He urged voters to take the political exercise very seriously and look into the personality platforms and qualities of candidates. They must know the character of their candidates because this would affect the kind of decisions the candidates would make when they win, he said.

Voters also need to know the platforms and the qualities of candidates to find out the kind of people one is sending them, Alejo said.

"Look at them as persons, but also look into their platforms and the kind of company they keep," he said.

He urged concern of integrity is also demanded on voters.

"It's unfair to look at the candidates as the cause of corruption in the country, when as early as six o'clock in the morning, people are already lining up in his house, asking for help," he point said.

Deserving candidates

Despite the sad state of Philippine politics, Alejo believes that some candidates "even struggle without spending money to topple down political dynasties."

"These are the kind of people that deserve our votes," he said. "Let's try to find them. I salute candidates who vote from the ranks without buying the votes of the constituency."

Good citizenry demands responsibility, he said, the kind of attitude in for citizens to be well-informed.

"They should learn to cache and watch the television to see how candidates answer (or evade questions)," he said. "They should do some intelligent analysis on their own."

He urged voters to be patient and not to lose hope. At 60 years, Philippine democracy is still very young and that it still needs a lot of struggle to evolve into a kind that will fit the Filipino's national psyche, he said.

"It takes time for a child to grow," he said.

"Let's find a democracy that suits us, instead of just imitating the Western style democracy," he added.

At present, the country only has a "semi-blatant of democracy" in an election that produces a "semblance of leaders."

But Alejo, a social anthropologist, said he observed quite a different kind of democracy practiced by indigenous tribes, where the datus, before arriving at a certain decision, seek a "consensus" instead of dividing the house.

"Western democracy is divisive," he said.

Since the two-party system that existed before martial law in the 1970s, he said, was easily "relatively successful."

"I don't think we can go back to that two-party system. We need to strengthen the institution of good parties and to find ways that are more suitable to us," he said.

Party-list groups

The party-list system today is a challenge to mainstream political parties, although, he said, it also stirs to failure.

"Normally, during elections, people woo the personal with names and faces with nominees attached to them," he said.

"The problem with party-list groups is that they don't have faces. They don't have personal names, they don't have nicknames and people are at a loss, he said.

He reminded, though, that the winning party-list groups are those who work the soil night with the people.

"Whether you like it or not, they (winning party-list groups) are there, easy or done, even when it's not election season," he said.

Alejo urged voters to "join groups," to help good candidates "who don't have the dollar-who deserve to win."

"Always remember: never ask for political favor this coming election. Hindi lahat ng tulong ay walang kapalit. Hindi lahat ng tulong ay tulong sa kapit," Alejo warned.

The elections demanded integrity not only from the candidates but also from the voters

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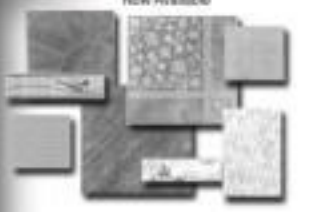

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Across the NATION

Lamppost engineer wants to be witness

By Jaime R. Balboa
Inquirer Visayas

CEBU CITY—A MANDAUE CITY ENGINEER implicated in the controversial lamppost project asked the Ombudsman to drop the case against him and, instead, use him as a witness.

Alfredo Sánchez II, Engineer II of the Mandaue City Engineering Office, denied having connived with local chief executive and officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways in the lamppost and streetlight project.

Instead, he tagged Cheryl Diaño, daughter-in-law of suspended Mandaue City Mayor Thadeo Ouano, as the one who exerted him or urged the progress of undesired project matters.

Sánchez, in his five-page sworn affidavit, claimed that there was no criminal intent on his part since he signed the documents for fear that he would be put on floating status.

To demonstrate his "innocuousness in the alleged collusion," he said he would assist in the prosecution of the case by becoming a "state witness."

Sánchez is among the 10 officials placed under preventive suspension by the Ombudsman due to the case involving the P300-million lamppost and streetlight project.

Among those suspended were Ouano, Lapu-Lapu City Mayor Jonas Radaza and chief engineering officials who prepared the topographic details and estimates (Sheet) for the lamppost.

In his affidavit, Sánchez said Mayor Ouano called for a meeting on the preparations for the 12th reinvestiture of Southeast Asian Games (Seagame) executive, including the proposal for street lighting, a city-funded project.

Upon instruction of Mayor Ouano, engineers Mario Gonzaga and Rosalita Dumapit prepared the Point on the electrical works and the civil works, he said.

Sánchez said he was the one who checked the estimates for the electrical works with an allowed budget of P45 million.

He said Mandaue City acting consultant Wilfredo Lumocso submitted the completed Point to the lawyer for Lapu-Lapu post.

But sometime in November, Sánchez said Lumocso asked him to sign another Point on the same project dated Nov. 7, 2006, but he refused to do since it was not prepared by the City Engineer's office.

As further claimed that he had, by signed the document when Cheryl personally brought it to his room

54 sick trees to undergo surgery

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—FIFTY-FOUR sick trees, which were among the 120,000 trees planted or razed for by American soldiers a century ago at what is now the Clark Freeport in Pampanga, will undergo surgery to save them from decay.

Mel Lizano, president of the Clark Development Corp., and Rogelio de Leon, regional director of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, have led the seven-man team called the Clark Tree Rescue Program, on Monday.

Specifically, pests and fungus caused the trunks to rot, said Jesus Miguel Fuentes, chief of the CDC tree conservation management department.

These bred on soils that rotted the trees during the 1991 eruptions of Mount Pinatubo, 25 kilometers west of Clark, he said.

Tree surgeons will scrape out the inner sections of the weak trunk and apply nutrient-rich and agro-chemicals. The treated void will be covered with reinforced concrete.

The CDC is spending P6,000 for the treatment of every tree at its corporate complex, parks ground and the Clark museum.

An inventory is being done to find out how many more trees needed surgery. Trees that already were beyond surgery and within 1,400 hectares were cut. Timothy Ong, deputy Central Luzon

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HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Republic of the Philippines
Malacanang Palace
Manila

Dear Madam President,

We, the private school administrators from Region IV-A that have been participating in the Educational Service Program (ESC) of the National Government would like to present this appeal.

As participating schools in the Program, we have committed ourselves to provide quality basic education to underprivileged students. To date, Forty Six Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Three (46,453) students of small private schools in the CALABARZON region have benefited, and are still benefiting, from the ESC Program. This is an amazing accomplishment, just a small one as compared to the thousands more of students who desire the best basic education that comes from a private school. As such, we are alarmed and saddened by the news of the changes and restrictions to the ESC Program, and eventually its planned phase out.

It has come to our knowledge that pursuant to the Program Information and Guidelines as contained in the DepEd Memo No. 184 series of 2007, the ESC can now only be availed of by schools who charge tuition and other fees at Twelve Thousand Pesos (Php 12,000) and below. Moreover, only public school children can enjoy the Educational Service Contracting (ESC). To these, we raise the following objections:

1. The limitation on the application of ESC is violative of the Constitutional mandate to quality education:-

The 1987 Philippine Constitution is replete with provisions that aim to protect and uphold the **right to quality education** of all. Article XIV, Sec. 1 categorically provides: "The State **shall protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality education at all levels** and shall take appropriate steps to make such education accessible to all." Corollary, Article XIV, Sec. 4 (1) states that "it is the policy of the State to **establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants**, student loan program, **subsidies and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools**, especially to the underprivileged."

Evidently, the highest law of the land puts much premium on every person's right to **"quality education"**, **entitled at any constitution on the manner by which it shall be obtained**. Hence, in restricting the application of ESC to private schools who offer Php 12,000 or less tuition and other fees, the Program Information and Guidelines has effectively amended the above-quoted Constitutional provisions. We assert that "quality education" cannot be bargained. If the State is tasked to implement the Constitutional mandate, then it must do so to the fullest of its ability and without any condition or restriction.

2. The limitation on the application of ESC is violative of Batas Pambansa Blang 232 (BP 232) or the Education Act of 1982:

Section 32 of BP 232 affirms the policy of the State to "adopt measures to broaden access to education thru financial assistance and other forms of incentives to schools, teachers and students." In addition, Section 51 mandates the State to "provide for financial assistance to financially-disadvantaged and deserving students in the form of State Scholarship and grants-in-aid."

Again, on the basis of the foregoing provisions, there is no iota of doubt that the obligation of the State to provide financial assistance **applies to ALL STUDENTS** regardless of where they enroll, provided only that they are all similarly situated financially. In other words, while the State may require that only students belonging to a particular income bracket may receive a grant of financial assistance, it cannot however impose any other restriction. As such, we are of the belief that the Program Information and Guidelines has no basis in requiring possible grantees to enroll only in schools with tuition and other fees at Php 12,000 or less. Nor does it have any right nor will hold from possible grantees the ESC by reason only that they did not attend public schools.

3. The limitations likewise violate Republic Act No. 9155 (RA 9155), otherwise known as Governance for Basic Education Act.

Section 2 of RA 9155 affirms the "policy of the State **to protect and promote the right of all citizens to quality basic education and to make such education accessible to all** by providing all Filipino children a free and compulsory education in the elementary level and free education in the high school level."

At the risk of being repetitive, our position is once again strengthened by the above-quoted provision. Clearly, the right to quality basic education **SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL** with no other restriction and/or condition. In fact, RA 9155 even espoused the right of Filipino children to FREE EDUCATION in the elementary level and the high school level. It is thus prejudicial to the part of students who opt to go to private schools, rather than public schools, to be deprived of government assistance. With all due respect, we dispute the mistaken notion of the framers of the Implementing Rules that students enrolled in private schools are financially well off. This notion is actually far from the truth. Majority of the students enrolled in private schools are in fact trying hard to make ends meet, just so they can continue with the kind of "quality education" provided for by private schools. Hence, it is not fair to generalize that only students enrolled in public schools need financial aid from our government.

4. The limitation likewise violates Republic Act No. 8545 (RA 8545), amending RA 6728:

In Section 2 of RA 8545, it is expressed "It is a declared policy of the State in conformity with the mandate of the Constitution, to promote and make quality education accessible to all Filipino citizens. **The State also hereby recognizes the complementary roles of public and private educational institutions in the educational system and the invaluable contribution that the private schools have made and will make to education.** For these purposes, **the State shall provide the mechanisms to improve quality education in private education by maximizing the use of existing resources of private education.** x x x."

In view of all the foregoing, it is our heartfelt plea that the ESC Program, under the Administration of your Excellency, be continued and expanded as it is hereby being implemented for the past eighteen (18) years, which has proven to be efficient, effective, sustainable and progressive. We humbly request that the P12,000 (tuition and other fees) cap for participation be waived and the ESC grant be made available to graduates of both public and private elementary schools. There is no question that the ESC Program has opened greater opportunities to our students and has given them the option to experience the "quality education" offered by private schools. We are hopeful that you will see the wisdom in our contention and reconsider the planned amendment to the ESC Program and its alleged evil/s/.

Very respectfully yours,

CALABARZON PRIVATE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Army exec warns poll bets on links with Reds

SORSOGON CITY—GANDEMBES supporting coalitions and prospective partylist groups should watch out for possible groups formally identified with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) for refusing to support the rebel group, the head of an Army office said.

Brig. Gen. Arnulfo Arugay, commanding general of the 9th Infantry Division based in Fort Camarines Sur, said the insurgents' "well-entrenched" ways of demanding love from the candidates like cash payment through AFM, supply of firearms and ammunition and support for partylist groups allied with the rebel group.

He warned candidates against these ploys, saying it was an act of treason to give aid and comfort to enemies of the state, aiming them the groups and organizations which serve as fronts of the leftist rebels.

Among the party-list groups identified with the CPP-NPA-NDF last week were Bayan Muna, Anakpawis, Gabriela and Kabataan.

These groups have accused the armed forces of the Philippines of waging a campaign against them which, they said, constitutes a violation of the law against electioneering.

Arugay and other ranking Army officials were here Thursday together with incoming regional police director Senior Supt. Rolly Tan to witness the signing of the candidates' covenant for a peaceful election.

Arugay said based on credible reports, a big number of candidates in the April region had already paid their NPC for to the NPA for some of those reports were still being validated.

He admitted, however, that a threat itself to candidates who might have paid the fee as the gun usually does without having any paper trail.

Arugay added that they would also look into the reported payment by a gubernatorial candidate in Albay of P40 million to the NPA to harass and intimidate his rival candidates.

The candidate, an ally of the administration, was said to have worked out an agreement with the NPA rebels in his province not to open other candidates access to the barangays.

The Army official said they would coordinate with the Philippine National Police on this issue.

Earlier, at a threat summit in Bicol, Gov. Joseph Santiago disclosed that there had been "young soldiers now" that he was being targeted by an armed rebel group from campaigning in most parts of the province.

Gonzales said his posters were removed en masse and his campaign staff were restricted from moving in almost all villages, though there was no direct confrontation or threats by the group against him.

He said his right to campaign was reportedly curtailed in the towns of Matnog, Gubat, Castilla, Donsol, Juban, Sorsogon, Irosin, Bulusan, in Legazpi City and even in his home turf in Lipa City, where he once served as mayor.

The governor said the group behind this could "perhaps be the New People's Army" as it was the only one known to be collecting P12 fees.

"I've not paid any amount to any armed group for a permit to campaign. Whichever group is behind this, I wouldn't know its reason for not allowing me to campaign," Gonzales told the reporters.

He dismissed the possibility that the removal of his posters, where done by political rivals to ensure the great number of posters removed indicated that it was premeditated.

He said he was appealing to the people not to allow anyone get in the way of their choices because we serve democracy in an election.

Gonzales said the rehabilitation efforts in the province after the typhoons had also been taking much of his time and was affecting his campaign.

"From the beginning I have decided to focus on my work and to just leave the decisions to the people. Whatever will be will continue serving them," he said.

Gonzales is seeking a second term. His opponents in the gubernatorial race here are former Presidential Chief of Staff Jose Solidum and Liezel Richard Q. Lachica and Ephraim Aguilar in-quarter Southern Luzon

Farmers to watch ₱3-B irrigation fund spending

BAGUIO CITY—FARMERS' GROUPS ARE closely watching the disbursement of a P3.12-billion irrigation fund released by the Department of Agriculture this year to ensure that this would go to the farmers' needs and would not be spent in the elections.

Emilio Ramos, secretary general of the Asian Peasant Coalition, said they were doubting how the money would be spent to prevent a repeat of the fertilizer fund scam, where public funds intended to buy fertilizers under a government agriculture program, were used to gain favors from President Macapagal-Arroyo's allies during the 2004 presidential election.

Ramos said DA Assistant Secretary Dennis Araullo had confirmed that part of the fund was released for the rehabilitation of irrigation systems in 27 provinces.

Aside from the P3.1-billion budget, another P650 million was allotted for post-harvest facilities, Ramos said.

"The DA confirmed that the funds were released by the central office of National Irrigation Administration (NIA) on the regional offices, but they could not disburse how much was released," Ramos told the farmers.

He said on March 28, groups led by the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and other farmer-leaders, subgroups and peach organizations had a dialogue on and discussed the irrigation matching called "Ramsey Pondo at Bantay Bono ng Bayan" to monitor the funds.

Worry

Ramos said the group's consumers asked Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr., Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap and NIA officials for a meeting on May 2 to check the status of the funds.

"We are so worried about the funds because we are talking about billions of pesos here. We do not want these funds to be used as campaign budget for DAs in next's elections. We do not want another fertilizer fund scam or Jose Jac Bolante-Part 2 referring to former Agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, the alleged architect of the fertilizer scam)," Ramos said.

NIA officials in the Cordillera said their office had received no share from the irrigation funds on by this year.

Leo Peña, cooperative economic analyst of NIA-Cordillera, said the six provinces in the Cordillera were included in the 27 areas that would receive shares of the irrigation rehabilitation fund.

But Ramos said farmers who attended a meeting of the National Irrigators' Council on April 17 and 18 in Metro Manila reported that there was an ongoing rehabilitation of irrigation systems in their provinces. (Jovine Cabiaa, Inquirer Northern Luzon)

ILLEGAL POSTERS
The ban on campaign posters doesn't get followed in Tuliao City as shown by these ones nailed or hung on electric posts and lampposts.

Visayas bets sign clean polls pact

By Cynthia A. Bonguyta, Felipa V. Cobus and Jaime B. Balandan
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—SOME LOCAL candidates in Northern Samar, Cebu and Leyte provinces signed a peace covenant signifying their commitment to clean and peaceful elections.

At least 49 candidates in Northern Samar signed a memorandum on April 12 for clean, honest, accurate and peaceful elections on May 14.

Holding lighted candles and the bible, they promised to "abide and obey all election laws, rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission on Elections."

The candidates also vowed, in the peace covenant, to accept defeat and support the winning candidate.

They also acknowledged their violations and supported to refrain from the use of guns, goons, goldand drums on hand.

The military, the police, the Parish National Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) and blended witnessed the signing of the peace covenant officiated by Northern Samar Bishop Emmanuel Trance and other priests.

The police identified at least six elected areas of concern in Northern Samar with Lavezares topping the list. Before second: Lope de Vega, Mapanas, San Isidro and Silvino Lobos, saying these are the areas with the "powder" snatching and intense political rivalry in the past elections.

In Bohol City, 100 percent of the 406 local candidates inked a peace covenant on Tuesday afternoon at the Bohol Provincial Gym Center.

The candidates agreed to refrain from using all forms of violence and fraud to promote honest and orderly elections.

They also agreed to conduct the political campaign on issues centered on the local platforms, respect other parties and legitimate issues and concerns, rather than engage in mudslinging and name-calling.

The Cebu Police Provincial Office, in coordination with the Comelec and the PPCRV, spearheaded the signing of the covenant.

Cebu police director Senior Supt. Rolando Villanueva said although some of the candidates were not present, the forging of the peace covenant was successful.

Villanueva said some of the candidates were not present since they had appointments elsewhere but they sent emissaries.

Monsignor Nicanor Hilario, IPCRC chair and vice general of the Most Immaculate Conception Cathedral, handed Villanueva and the Comelec he spearheading the activities and the candidates for supporting the peace pact.

In Batanes Island, Cebu, the Comelec in Central Visayas held a peace forum, which was attended by the local candidates of the three towns.

The candidates gathered for the first time to sign a peace covenant that denounced political violence and swearing to abide by the provisions of the election laws.

Marbidalcar Mayor Leny Mayera, who is also running against three other opponents for mayor, urged local candidates and their supporters to keep away from violence and from fabricating stories to promote certain political camps.

During the same forum, Salvador Dela Pranza, a political rival of Mayera, urged policemen to be neutral and to verify and investigate reports first before conducting searches and other operations against a political camp to avoid tension.

Both Mayera and Dela Pranza denied accusations that they have been having private actions for the election.

Bayan Muna supports Iloilo gov, 2 sons, 18 others for local posts

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—MILITANT PARTY-LIST GROUP announced on Thursday their support for 22 candidates running for various posts in Iloilo in the May 14 elections.

The candidates, belonging to both the administration and opposition parties, were basically endorsed in an assembly led by Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo at a hotel here.

Aside from Bayan Muna, the candidates got the support of party-list groups Anakpawis, Gabriela and Kabataan, which have topped consistently the surveys on voters' preference for party-list groups.

Bayan Muna Iloilo spokesperson Windfrey Orbino said they endorsed the candidates based on their stand on such issues as human rights, wage, environment, rotten political killings and elections, farming and land reforms. "They must also choose based on their track record of supporting and helping the party-list groups in their advocacies and their chances of winning in the elections.

Candidates

The endorsed candidates include Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas Jr., who is running for his third and last term against Vice Gov. Rolando Antonio, his son Niel Tupas Jr., who is running for congressman of Iloilo's 5th district and another son, Hector who is running for Iloilo City councilor.

For the 1st district, the party-list groups gave their support to Simplicio Catrocio who is running for councilor in Oton town.

The candidates who were endorsed in the 2nd district include Adolfo Jaen II, for provincial board; Oswald Gumanga, Percy Trimaltos and Rhoda Gerardo-Hontiveros for the Pavia town council; and Mary Cleofe Lalamon for the Leganes town council.

In the 3rd district, those endorsed were Joseph Anthony Lauron (for provincial board member) and Noel Abaria for councilor of Janiuay town. Also endorsed were Lambunao candidates Pancho Cachola (for vice mayor) and Claudio Cadbudan (for councilor).

In official provincial board member Lilia Gonzales got the groups' support as member of Oriental town.

In the 4th District, the party-list groups endorsed Ferdinand Gustilo and Ramon Siron Jr. who are running for mayor and vice mayor, respectively, of Dumangas town. In the same municipality candidates for councilor who were endorsed include Benny Bernardino, Nelson Delos and Ismalia Tinoco.

In the 5th district, the party-list groups endorsed Lawrence Viejo Mayor Raul Tupas (running unopposed) and Lavencia endorsement councilor Wilson Inciong.

Groups to vote vs candidates not supporting health bill

BAGUIO CITY—PLAYING THE SCARE tactics of the Catholic Church, a coalition of health organizations is coming up with a list of candidates and parties that are set to endanger score the bill on comprehensive reproductive health.

Romeo Dongeto, deputy executive director of the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation Inc., said the Alliance for Choice and Empowerment was formed to keep alive the hope for a better reproductive health (RH) program for the country.

The alliance is composed of government agencies, such as the Commission on Population, National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, Sistema Vi Youth Commission, Department of Health, Formula One Health, Department of Education, Employees' Confederation of the Philippines, Forum for Family Planning and Development, Reproductive Health Advocacy Network, Philippine NGO Council for Population, Development and Development and the PLCPD.

In a forum here on Wednesday, Dongeto said a recent Pulse Asia survey showed that three out of four Filipino voters would support candidates who favored the government's family planning services. The survey was commissioned by the PLCPD and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

Eighty percent of them also wanted candidates to include family planning in their programs of action, according to the results of the survey of 1,800 respondents nationwide.

"It is unfortunate that there are politicians who still feel threatened about including family planning in their platforms. But the Order does not mean that we are campaigning for candidates. It is only to inform the voters about the issues," Dongeto said.

He said his group would give information on the views of party-list groups and candidates on reproductive health and other allied issues.

"The survey results prove that candidates have nothing to lose and everything to gain when they include population and RH in their platforms," Ramon Jan Puyat, executive director of PLCPD, said.

Dongeto said their study showed that many candidates who pushed family planning and reproductive health programs in the 2004 elections won.

He cited the victory of Aurora Governor Bellaflor Angara Castillo, who is known for her support for family planning programs.

Dongeto said the survey showed that Filipinos consider family planning important and want it fully funded by the government should adopt a more active stance on family planning by allocating budget to push the program.

It said an "overwhelming majority" of Filipinos, or 91 percent of those surveyed, said it was important to plan one's family and nearly nine of 10 Filipinos (89 percent) said the government should allocate funds for modern methods of family planning (pills, intra-uterine devices or IUD), condoms, ligation and vasectomy.

The survey results also showed that one in every two Filipinos (52 percent) believed that a candidate's support for family planning would determine his or her electoral victory, while 41 percent believed it has no effect on a candidate's chances.

Only 6 percent of those surveyed believed that a candidate's support for family planning would ruin his chances in the elections.

Dongeto said the issue on population growth and family planning should not only be a concern of women and women candidates.

"The concern on family planning should not be left only to females. It should be everybody's concern," he said.

"If the death of 18 women everyday due to lack of RH services is not compelling enough for our candidates to prioritize RH in their programs of governance, then there is no point waiting for them," said Edna Bonacquisto, PPS-DOST executive director.

"These are the kinds of candidates who have no place in government," she said.

Dongeto said the Catholic Church's lobbying against RH services who were elected pro-RH during the past elections did not prosper as most of those candidates won. (with Cristella and Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon)

REMEMBERING THE HEROES
A gardening worker in soldiers' clothes during the 42nd commemoration of Bataan's liberation from Japan.

3 US war vets return to relive top-secret run

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RETURNING HEROES: From left, Albert Montagne, USS Stingray crew member; Emmanuel de Dianzon, president, Veterans Federation of the Philippines and board chair of the Veterans Bank, Basil Wentworth, USS Stingray crew member and RJ McCann.

MARIA MONTAÑO

One of the last major secret submarine landings was on Aug. 27, 1944 by the USS Stingray at Geumayan Bay, Pagudpud. Its crew: Boris, just six weeks before the Leyte Landing, which brought back to the Philippines the US forces under MacArthur to begin the liberation of the country.

The USS Stingray off-loaded more than six tons of ammunition and supplies for the Filipino guerrillas, including 25 Filipino-American commandos led by Capt. Joe Ileto's.

Top-secret run

The missions, which continued till, covered several islands from Luzon to Mindanao, mostly under cover of night, in secret boating operations conducted by Japanese secret service, according to Montagne.

"This run that we made [in the Philippines] was probably the most top-secret patrol out of any sub in WWII. It was so top secret that it was not declassified until 1992," Montagne said.

For many years after they completed their missions, Montagne, 85, Wentworth, 83, and McCann, 83, were of the mistaken belief that their feats were unrecorded, and even unsung.

"The Army told us not to do it six months later that all those people on the beach were killed by small arms fire," said Wentworth, who looks very emotional about it to this day.

"I only learned in the year 2000 that nobody was killed. A pilot returned to the area and killed to stop dogs who cued, so, nobody was killed. It was a successful mission," he said.

After several decades, "there was vision that our run meant something. Our 3 was important," Wentworth said.

"The reason they told us that all the guerrillas were killed was because they didn't want us to talk about it. And we didn't," he added.

Japanese convoy

The regular routine of a submariner was always secret, he explained. "We could not see anything, even to our own families," he said.

Montagne recalled a time in mid-1944 during their last run off Cagayan Sur.

"As we got closer to the shore, we ran aground on a coral reef. We spotted up our hatches, and the 75 guns on the sub let loose every 6 to 10 seconds with, tube gun, some grenades, and some food," he said.

In the middle of the unloading, they saw a convoy of Japanese ships outside the bay. They did not panic or flinch.

However, a second group of about 12 Japanese ships, instead of staying outside the bay, went inside the bay and came within point-blank range of the US submarine.

"We immediately stopped the off-loading. We felt like sitting ducks," he said. "Because [Japanese] ranges are, so, we probably would not survive," he said.

So the crew set "demolition charges" and prepared to go ashore. To set the demolition charge means blowing up a boat.

Up close

"They were so close we could see their decks. Fortunately for us, and I guess, fortunately for them, they didn't shoot, and we didn't shoot," Montagne said.

In this day, they have no idea who the Japanese did not shoot.

"We think about that every day because we don't understand what they saw, what they thought. We have they were looking at us, and we wouldn't do anything. We just sat quiet," said Montagne.

When the Japanese finally left, the submariners hurriedly left too, having figured that more Japanese convoy vessels would soon swarm the area, Montagne said.

"So we released the anchor. The anchor and the chain are still there," he said.

Of the Filipino guerrillas they worked with, Montagne said, "They were professional. We got along quite well."

"They would answer any questions, and we could talk about whatever we wanted to talk about. The interaction was friendly," he added.

"I would say they were kind of subdued. What the hell, they were all strangers [to us]: you can't do it," Wentworth said.

Stingray memorial

It was Perante' son, Peter, and Del Sarabia and Lesley Endlemo—the latter two are the sons of Filipino guerrillas involved in the submarine missions—who organized the Stingray Memorial Project to honor the memory of Filipino and US veterans who participated in the liberation of the Philippines.

Also done it had coming both to the Philippines?

"Well, [rather] like] I've never been in the Philippines. I've been a thousand feet from shore," said Wentworth with a laugh.

Montagne said he had first-hand experience of the emotional Filipino way of hospitality.

"Everyone was so hospitable. Sometimes I would think they're going overboard," he said.

What tomorrow brings

As for plans of returning to the Philippines, Montagne said: "At 85, years of age, you never know what tomorrow brings. So we take that into consideration. Whether we go there in the [cold], it's a little bit too much of a burden."

Wentworth said he would find age stopping up on him.

"I'm not going to go any time again. I'm way [with] kind of hard to do. I have to have, but it's a little hard," he said.

"This is my last hurrah."

Lucy Torres: Life with Richard not perfect, but ideal

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for their perfect. "A person is always a work in progress. I'm realistic enough to acknowledge his faults."

There is one thing, she would like to change in him, "It's his lack of patience" and his being too harsh for comfort. "He is human. He says whatever comes to mind."

Whenever he has to speak in a controversy on national interest, Lucy jokingly says that she always "prays to the holy spirit for guidance."

To his credit, Comez listens to his wife, Imee's adviser said.

This month, she would turn.

Marriage

But a lot marriage in Comez as partner quarters as drumbeats for the presidency it?

"It's not perfect, but it's ideal," she says in an exclusive interview with the Inquirer. "It depends on how you define things. A perfect man has to one where the couple can have a happy life where you only have good days."

That's quite a tall order, she admits. "Especially since it's not just me and him in this marriage, there are also other people around us."

These days, those "other people" include the 43.3 million registered voters that the Commission on Elections is counting for the senatorial-presidential's senatorial bid.

She says: "This is the craziest time of my life. Three years ago, I was just involved one dance class after the other. Now, I am juggling two clients (ABS 3's 'Thrill Me Dance' and GMA's 'The Stairs Life'), plus the campaign. And on top of all this, I can't sleep being a mother to Richard and a mother to two-year-old Juliana."

She repeats by "taking it one day at a time."

Shall we dance!

When her husband first told her about running for the Senate, her first question was: "Are they going to ask me to dance on the campaign trail?"

Lucy clarified: "The landscape of the elections have changed. It's not just about singing and dancing in rallies and waving at anyone, the most battlefield now is television."

Unfortunately, she says up, Comez's campaign is lacking in that department.

She confesses that the campaign has been "very difficult" on her. "Drawing a crowd is never a problem, but the biggest hurdle is financial."

She says that they've spent barely P5 million on the campaign," thus far.

"It's a very lean campaign," she insists.

Field of dreams

As the state of the campaign insists, she recalls, "I was very surprised one dance class ad for the other. Now, I am juggling two clients (ABS 3's 'Thrill Me Dance' and GMA's 'The Stairs Life'), plus the campaign. And on top of all this, I can't sleep being a mother to Richard and a mother to two-year-old Juliana."

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Field of dreams

As the state of the campaign insists, she recalls, "I was very surprised one dance class ad for the other. Now, I am juggling Richard. The money will come . . . So was expressed in the movie 'Field of Dreams': 'If you build it, they will come.' I was filming in of duty-take world. And I became that: if I would come that much, I would've been the first one to discourage him!"

That Comez is running as an independent makes things extra challenging, she says. "Having no party and no one to hang, we really just depend on the kindness of people. It's not logical to exhaust your resources because how would you resource that? By standing? Its not?"

She denies rumors that they've been spending P1 million a day and that they've been forced to mortgage some of their property.

Poorest candidate

"When the campaign is over, we will still be the same [Richard and Lucy]. It's not like we're mortgaged our house or we're sued up Juliana's college education fund," she says. "If we were spending that much, then there would be no reason for us not to have sex," she says.

Bad! jokingly, half-seriously, she portrays her husband as "the poorest candidate."

"We have very few TV ads. When we're on series, I want to cry. We're really throwing [grabbing] the dempsey hour-in, they don't even know that Richard is running," she insists.

Friends, in and out of show business, have shown their support in various ways—big and small.

"It's really surprising. Just as we were about to run out of posters, someone would donate posters. Or someone would give us boulders for plant stickers. [Talent manager and TV host] Cristy Fido sends us lunch boxes and boxes of candies for giveaways."

But just as some people have been kind, she acknowledges that "others have been violent, too."

K-Kat, Ice woes

More recently, her husband has had some very heated and very public arguments with fellow executives Ralph Recto and Gwen Duchess.

Ralph Recto, the head of operations is the e-Mac with Mobitin, Domini's CEO boss.

As a result of the fiery exchange of words with Recto, the "shoplifting" issue has been established in a subtext.

Quick recap: Two years ago, climate (passage) solutions already [Lucy had been caught shoplifting in a posh department store — purportedly recorded for passing by security cameras.

That has been "the toughest rough patch" in her public life, so far, she admits. "The blogs [media] tame because as promises, but no one has come forward with the supposed [security] tapes. The worst was a friend [who] felt a friend of a friend. I'm ready to have anyone. To this day the challenge remains. And I can sleep soundly at night because I know where I stand."

Cesar vs Garcia

Lucy however, refuses to veer away from the main issue.

"There's no need to get personal. It's the [Senate] not [Mr. Blue] and [Mr. Red] that's been in the Senate for a long time. And to borrow, as Mayor Vilma Santos] did, she was just defending her husband [Ralph]."

That is precisely one important realization during the campaign period.

"There's no reason to hurt each other. At this point, there's no point to bring anyone down. At this point, nothing these candidates would do could change the outcome of the elections. God has already written it."

Full interview in the Inquirer.com section tomorrow.

'If you love patola, upo, kalabasa, you'll love Pichay'

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candidate Prospero Pichay.

Quiboloy is Davao's self-proclaimed son of God and leader of the religious group "Jesus Christ, the Name Above Every Name."

Pichay said Quiboloy "just wanted to show his appreciation" for the favor appropriate and opened the evangelist as saying: "Inano-no ka talaga si Pichay sa Senado (I will really place Pichay in the Senate)."

Quiboloy celebrated his 56th birthday last Wednesday and those who came to greet him in his home in Barangay Tamugong here included senatorial candidates from both the administration and from Unity and the Genuine Opposition.

Although Quiboloy said he would make public his choices only on May 6, one of those supporting his birthday jumped the gun and announced his.

In a statement on Friday, TU candidate Pichay said Quiboloy had picked him as his "No. 1 candidate."

Pichay also said that his candidacy had been endorsed recently by Bro. Mike Velarde, leader of El Shaddai.

The representative from Sarangani del Sur was elated by Velarde's confidence in him, saying Velarde was one of the most sought-after endorsers during elections.

"Kung sumuso sila si Bro. Mike [whose ayaw daw sila at isang maaaring no-o Mindi, siguro siya lang kumpat. dapat siya sa Senado or Mindi [Bro. Mike knows me. He knows if I am a bad person or not. He knows if I can serve him or not. He knows if I deserve the support]," Pichay said.

"I am humbled by these endorsements. Ako po'y tatagang nakamalapit na kapag ako'y nasa Senado at Bro. Mike or si Bro. Quiboloy ay darating po rito ang pasalubong [The same endorsements from Bro. Mike and Bro. Quiboloy also include projects]," he added.

Persistent visitors

One of the first senatorial candidates to greet Quiboloy on his birthday was opposition senatorial candidate Atty. Harry Roque. The two met one hour.

In the evening, reinforcing Senators Manny Villar, Ralph Recto and Loren Legarda are with Dr. Garcia, whose group invites speakers to television stations and radio stations.

Pichay and fellow administration candidate Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson arrived later to join the celebration. Local politicians also come.

Thousands of followers

Davao-side reporters that he, indeed, had sought the pastor's endorsement. The other candidates said they only came over to greet Quiboloy.

The evangelist, who claims to have thousands of followers all over the country, were evasive in his remarks to reporters.

He said his list would be a matter of both administration and opposition candidates.

He added that among those he would endorse were the politicians who often visited him. Another basis would be the candidate's ability to unify the country.

Quiboloy a close friend of Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, declared his "flock would follow his choice as they had done so for the past 30 years.

"I don't influence it on them but I leave the final decision," he said with a wide grin.

While declining to name his personal choices for senators, Quiboloy said he was endorsing all local candidates running under Duterte's Hugpong sa Tawong Lungsod (Alliance of City Dwellers).

Quiboloy's group is one of several religious groups whose favors are being sought by to-be-elected officials in the week-long drumming of victory on May 14. The others are the Ama in Lord Movement (INC), El Shaddai and Iglesia ni Kristo.

Power of prayer

Pichay whose candidacy was recently endorsed by both Velarde and Quiboloy said that prayers, not command or commissions votes, would do miracles for him and his team in the May 14 mid-term elections.

Pichay said faith in the power of prayer was the most decisive factor that would determine the outcome of the coming elections.

The congressman, a product of the St. Peter's Seminary in Bacolor City, said he believed that aside from his own prayers, endorsements by religious groups of his candidacy would enable him to win.

He said that survey results of senatorial preferences by independent pollsters showed the administration bets in his ratings, saying this was due to prayers and hard work in the campaign trail so.

Party-list support

"Rather than propaganda, pop slogans or political machinery, prayers and the collective conscience of our people will determine the election outcome," Pichay insisted.

"Only by the grace of God, we are running for office, should bring out intended programs and platforms to all Filipinos, so they will choose with proper discernment who they will entrust to their leadership," he said.

Pichay added that he was also being endorsed by leaders of two party-list groups: Bantay Konsyumer and party-list nominee Lawyer Ferdi Lumbres and Ang Kasangga Kalikasan of Congressman Simon.

NEWS

Bring A SMILE to Congress...
VOTE! A SMILE PARTYLIST
SMILE
ANG AMAHAN ng mga MANGANGALAKAL para sa KAUUNLAD ng OKAL na KONOMIYA
A SMILE PARTYLIST

Palace: RP to back US on Iraq

By Jaime Laya@inquirer.net

THE PHILIPPINES, WHICH EMERGED IN A SIMILAR SITUATION AS THE MAJORITY IN A RECENT survey in the researchers and most trusting ally of the United States, will continue to support the US in its role of ensuring regional and global security, and will respect whatever decision it makes regarding its presence in Iraq.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye made the statement after the US Congress approved on Tuesday a bill calling for the withdrawal of combat troops from Iraq.

US President George W. Bush vowed to veto the bill, an unprecedented repudiation of his war policy.

"The United States is an important ally and friend of the Philippines and it plays a key role in promoting peace and security in our country and around the world, but it is up to the people and government of the US to determine what role they should play in Iraq and any other nation," Bunye said in a statement.

Voting 51 to 46, the US Senate joined the House of Representatives in supporting the bill that would provide $124.2 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan this year but which is to set a deadline for the withdrawal of US forces from Iraq over the next 11 months.

While giving more money than Bush had sought on homeland security, the bill required US troops to start pulling out of Iraq on Oct. 1 with a nonbinding deadline for withdrawal by March 31 next year.

A long-standing ally of the US, the Philippines was one of the members of the so-called "Coalition of the Willing," countries that supported the US invasion of Iraq, but when Philippine driver Angelo de la Cruz was kidnapped by Iraq militants in July 2004, the Arroyo administration pulled out its 50 member humanitarian contingent to prevent his beheading.

Although the pullout drew criticism that the Bush administration, a week 10 security job lured the Philippines to the mainstream US support.

Most countries, according to the survey released by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, did not trust the US to act responsibly on the global stage.

Eighty-five percent of respondents in the Philippines said they trusted the United States either a "great deal" or "somewhat."

That level of trust was higher than the 61 percent in Israel, 58 percent in Australia and 51 percent in Poland.

Lack of trust in US

In contrast, other countries showed a lack of trust that the United States would act responsibly and a sense that it had overreached on the global stage.

A majority of respondents in Argentina (66 percent), Peru (60 percent), Russia (71 percent), France (72 percent), Armenia (58 percent), Indonesia (64 percent), China (69 percent), Thailand (70 percent), Brazil (55 percent), South Africa (52 percent) and even than a third of those in Australia (46 percent) and Ukraine (37 percent) answered "not at all" or "not very much" when asked how much they trusted the United States "[would responsibly] in the world," the poll found.

"There's a decline in moral leadership of democracy, big negative attitudes to the US in how it takes foreign policy" said Christopher Whitney, executive director for studies at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

In case of big quake, water supply assured, says water firm

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AN INTENSITY 8 EARTHQUAKE HITS METRO Manila. All the bridges and major thoroughfares collapse, isolating Quezon City and the other six cities/districts in the capital region. Communications are down. The tremor knocks out all electricity lines. All but seven sewers are intact.

This is not a vision of doomsday. The scenario is part of the Major Incident Preparedness drill of the Manila Water Company (MWC) yesterday in its San Juan Logistic Warehouse Stockyard.

The goal of yesterday's drill, conducted with the local government and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), was to ensure the continuity of the supply of clean water should a serious disaster occur.

Dire scenario

The dire scenario begins with the activation of the Marikina fault line which damages roads and bridges connecting the areas in the east zone of Metro Manila, including sections of the distribution service in the cities of Makati, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Quezon City and Manila, as well as the municipalities of San Juan, Taguig and Pateros.

Twenty incident management teams are immediately dispatched from four staging areas in Antipolo, Pasig City, Makati City, Taguig and Quezon City. They are given two hours to mobilize facility managers, business continuity personnel, administrative support providers, first aid workers and BFP operatives.

Arlo Bertillo of the Corporate Communications office of Manila Water explained that the continuity of water service to their five million customers is their goal and standard management teams are given a free hand to develop their own strategies to achieve it.

"Even our contractors, those collecting the bills, are part of the activity. Should all communication lines be down, these bill collectors can go around to the households and announce[ment]," Bertillo said.

Drills conducted

At least four drills were conducted starting from Antipolo, which ran from 9:6 a.m.; in Pasig City from 6:4 a.m.; in Global City, from 8:17 a.m., and lastly at the San Juan storage yard from 10 a.m. 12 p.m.

Manila Water personnel, tasked by flashlight-wearing units from the different municipalities and local government employees, proceeded to the different pumping stations. While water from the different pumping stations are diverted, pipeline repairs are undertaken.

"This is an annual readiness drill. It is important because in our respective area any real service, water distribution," Antonio Aquino, Manila Water president, told the reporters.

He said that the drill hopes to ensure that all area service teams of the company are able to prepare by assigned to any contingency and are on duty areas to solve the problem.

Yesterday's drill was the second of its kind. Last year, a typhoon scenario was simulated.

Aplus METRO

FARMING IN THE CITY

Taguig residents now (green) revolutionaries

CONCHITA Bandoc, one of the participants in the urban agriculture project, looks after her punch of greens at the Commonwealth Village.

By Kristine L. Alave

A NEW GREEN REVOLUTION is taking place in Taguig.

The city government wants to turn its residents into urban farmers by converting vacant spaces, rooftops and idle lots into gardens where they can grow organic vegetables.

Initially, Pedro of the Taguig agricultural office said the urban agriculture project was officially launched on February in Commonwealth Village, Project Eleven. Most of the residents in the area belong to the urban poor sector.

Apart from providing them with a source of food and additional income, the project is aimed at promoting the benefits of organic farming, recycling and composting.

Individuals become interested in LGSP-supported farming and gardening projects when they see empty lots being used as garbage dumps after they were mostly unemployed residents in the village with a lot of free time on their hands.

"We asked the HUDC (Housing and Urban Development Council) if we could use the lot as our demonstration farm. Eventually, the residents (stopped using) it as a garbage dump and started cleaning the area," she added.

The city government donated seeds and plants while its agriculture officers conducted lectures and training on gardening, crop maintenance and marketing. The Department of Agriculture, on the other hand, provided gardening tools and compost.

Mostly women

Participants in the program are mostly women who take turns weeding the plots and watering and pruning the plants.

Some vegetables are planted on small plots while others thrive in discarded jugs, bottles, pails, old tires, sacks and styrofoam containers.

Most of the vegetables are of the green and leafy variety like pechay, cabbage, lettuce, kangkong, camote and alugbati. Residents have also planted eggplants, sweet potatoes and tomatoes.

Although the vegetables are grown using hot-tech methods, the produce look good enough to be served in four-star dining establishments.

The leafy vegetables are ready for harvest after about a month. On the other hand, egg plants and tomatoes take at least three months to ripen.

Solis said they chose those vegetables because they are the ones most often used in the kitchen.

"The project is part of the government's hunger mitigation program," she explained.

Since the start of the program, households with adjacent gardens have dropped buying vegetables for their cooking, which means savings for housewives with small budgets.

Organic food

Some families sell their produce to neighbors and nearby markets for additional income. Solis said the project envisions itself eventually be able to sell their produce in food to stands, as she noted that there was a growing demand for organic food.

"When you say organic, they know there are no chemicals involved in the production of the vegetables," she added.

According to her, the project helps clients that gardening is virtually impossible in the city. It also helps that the vegetables being grown in Taguig's 800 gardens need little maintenance. Aside from watering it a day and a bit of weeding, she said. The slightest soil insects, for example, are easy to cultivate, she said. The sweeping sizes only needed a bit of pruning every now and then.

So far, city officials said the response from residents to the urban gardening project has been positive, with many people inquiring about the program during their barangay visits.

Solis said over 1,000 residents have asked for seedlings and assistance from the city government for gardens that range from small plots to raised pots in kitchens and on rooftops. "We want all residents to participate in the project," she added.

Solis said that in the future, they want residents to focus on high-value vegetables like lettuce and tomatoes. Perfect, and two months into the program, Commonwealth Village residents have already started cultivating red lettuce and cherry tomatoes.

According to her, red lettuce from Baguio City which is sold in supermarkets in Metro Manila usually go for more than P120 a kilo.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GLOBAL Pinoy

Edited by Gerry Lirio

SUNDAY, APRIL 29, 2007

"THE TIME FOR US TO ... is now. I truly believe that protecting the welfare of our people abroad is important but we should embrace the phenomenon. It is a source of strength for the country, and then we should find ways to ... [illegible] ... I'm not saying that [illegible] ... and we should ... compete ... [illegible] ... abroad like ... [illegible]"

—DOMIC Secretary Arthur Yap, 8 June 2006

One Ayala joins 'Kumustahan' shows

By Mike Plaridel

WITH THE SURGE OF OVERSEAS remittances, big business is seeking to tap the gold mine that is the OFW market.

In this year's edition of Kumustahan, overseas Filipinos will not just get a dose of laughs and good music. They will also get a chance to see how businesses are wooing them to make investments back home.

Kumustahan 2007 recently booked its ninth One Asia Program, the latest festivities of the Ayala Group that's out to make the Arab overseas-based Filipinos and OFWs.

Tieup with 3 Ayala firms

Sony de la Cobada, executive producer of Kumustahan 2007, said the Ayala provides three fundamental services OFWs need while they are abroad: Remittance service, real estate prospects and communication.

For the program, launched by the Ayala Group this year, is a group of the three major businesses of the Ayalas—Bank of the Philippine Islands, Ayala Land and Globe Telecom.

Kumustahan has been supported by businesses in its annual endeavor to bring a taste of the homeland to Pinoys around the world since 2005, De la Cobada said. In 2006, Globe was one of the sponsors of Kumustahan concert series, she said.

Impressed with the turnout and the success of the fest, Globe came back in the 2007 edition of Kumustahan and again agreed to be one of the sponsors, De la Cobada said. This time around, the telecom firm stepped up its, Globe's sister company for the Ayala Group.

Earlier that year, representatives of Globe again approached De la Cobada to work on another sponsorship offer for Kumustahan 2007. In March, One Ayala came into the picture and proposed to sponsor this year's concert, she said.

According to One Ayala's website, Ayala Land, BPI and Globe have agreed to "jointly underwrite sales and marketing activities here and in other countries for the benefit of the Overseas Filipinos and their families."

"Ayala Land, BPI and Globe have integrated their endeavors so that they can roll out a rewards program that will benefit Filipinos working or living abroad," the website said.

De la Cobada said the concert series would also be presenting medium-scale businesses during the US tour so that overseas Filipino entrepreneurs will possibly make investments here in the country.

Nostalgia

Kumustahan 2007 will kick off with a tour in the United States next Sunday. Two concerts are scheduled to be held in both coasts of the US.

Overseas Filipinos in the US are in for a treat in this year's Kumustahan. Popular comedienne Kuh-ren Jaworski and Filipino music legends Jaya Hilang Sandaliya headline the shows slated for May.

Jaworski is known for her portrayal of the infamous character "Tita Maricel," a Globe-texting Pinoy whose wit and humor overcome Filipinos find easy to relate with.

Regarded by industry watchers as big cuts in the local music scene, the Apo Hiking Society is a must hit with overseas Filipinos with their catchy tunes in songs, like "Sarung Banggo" and "Pandangan" among other songs, that will surely put the audience in a nostalgic mood.

TV stars Willie Gil and Hazel Ann Mendoza also join the Kumustahan tour for the US tour. Gil will be part of the West Coast tour while Evangelista will kick off the East Coast shows.

Kumustahan 2007 tour in the US will start at the East Coast, with a show at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey on May 5. The show moves to DAR Lincoln Auditorium in Washington DC on May 6.

The West Coast tour will happen on May 13 at Fox Theater in San Francisco and on May 12 at the UCLA Royce Hall in Los Angeles.

Aside from One Ayala, other sponsors include Telesponsa, GMA Pinoy TV, ABS-CBN The Filipino Channel and the Inquirer.

Mission: To teach English to Thais

By Christine P. Figueroa

THE DAY'S LESSON WAS COMPOUND WORDS. Considering the relative ease of the subject matter, any college freshman would have been expected to breeze through it.

But not the boys at the Joseph Upatham School, a top Catholic institution in Thailand.

It's not that members of Matayom 6/Section 2—roughly equivalent to first year college students in the Philippines—were hopelessly poor in English. It's just that like many other Thais, they're unfamiliar with the language.

Thailand, of course, takes pride in its cultural and territorial purity, having warded off all foreign invasions. In the process, they have apparently insulated themselves from the English language.

Finding no volunteers for the class exercise that morning last January, Filipino instructor Rhodora "Dory" Bacilio called out a lanky Thai boy in white polo and bright blue shorts. He looks smack any teen so "brave" to make it a compound word. Scratching his head, the boy wrote "newspaper."

"It's supposed to have an 'i' in the middle," Dory told him. "And you don't have to write the same word. Write only 'paper.'" The boy hesitated and wrote "only paper."

Except for their 30-year-old teacher, a native of Novaliches, Quezon City, most of the students, including the female teaching assistant, seemed to notice the blunder. The subject troubled Dory, who has been with the boys for the past three months.

Everyday usage

"They really have to start hard on their English," she will the lessons in an interview. "Compared with our students in the Philippines, they're very far behind."

Nothing but students out of the language barrier has been Dory's invasion since she began teaching in September 2004 as a middle-class school run by the Archdiocese of Bangkok, 10hr to among at least 11 Filipino instructors currently in the job.

The school had also imported several other English teachers from as far away as The Netherlands, Germany, the United States and Australia. But their class color and contrasted by the sugar tongue, they are naturally attractive to parents seeking English lessons for their kids.

But nothing beats the Filipino school, it comes to "seriously" teaching the language and making it work in everyday usage, according to Dory.

"Even if we don't look any different from the Thai instructors, the students know that Filipinos are good in English," she says. "They know that, back in our country, almost everybody can speak the language."

Dory and the rest of the 44 Filipino teaching force at Joseph Upatham bring more than just competence. Just as important, she says, were commitment, dedication and tons of patience.

'It was very enjoy'

Take her Matayom 5/1 class. Has a few students been awarded it because of the exclusive "honorary" of the students, but only were they seen unfailingly evenly. So they seemed to have a natural dislike toward learning.

Dory doesn't think so.

"Sometimes, they drive me mad because of all the boring around," she says. "But at the end of each session, I know they've got the point of it."

Her first few weeks in Thailand were nothing short of challenging.

None, for instance, do you tell teenage students that you don't say "I didn't went to school yesterday"? That there's no need to convolute a sentence by saying, "I'm going to go..." Or worse, that "half-baked" isn't always taken literally.

WITH SOME of her favorite pupils at Joseph Upatham School, a top Catholic institution in Thailand

It's not something she had prepared for, despite a teaching experience at a prominent private school in Quezon City. But she soon realized that the grammatical melody could be ruined by the tight attitude and an overly formal lesson. That has been her teaching formula for nearly three years now.

Dory begins by asking her students to write an essay—at any middle-level it—at the start of the class in class. She then uses the essay as a point of comparison at the end of the last class in October.

Simple teaching method

In the meantime, she basically bases her lessons on a simple, that-not-mainly-with the practical use of the English language.

The initial intervention are so easy in telling them about the different types of transportation, names of countries and cities, corresponding nationalities, foreign currencies, and kinds of jobs. Then the lessons move to basic grammar, particularly verbs. A common mistake includes types of jobs.

"What does a doctor do?" she usually asks her students. "A doctor cures the sick," is a common reply.

Dory knew that anyone could study stuff at the very simplistic lessons and the teaching method. It's as if she's translating an electronic-user-dictionary in Manila, she admitted.

"But that's the way it is here," she says. "You have to start with the basics even if the students are already teenagers. They didn't have the opportunity to learn English as a grammar age, unlike our students in the Philippines."

The teaching strategy is clearly spelled out in the English curriculum for Matayom 1, "Matayom" is a term for high school students in the years in the Thai educational system. Kinder is "anuban" and elementary is "prateun," she says.

Graduation comes usually only after a student has completed the "Matayom 6" level.

At Joseph Upatham, Matayom 5 students go through a series of lessons tackling "famous people, doing the right thing, free trade, model of government, rules of valid contract, and the like. Apparently I find "Do you really believe in it?"

In each topic, lessons on prepositions, nouns, adverbs, irregular adjectives, and clauses are incorporated.

Before the end of the term, Dory asks her students to submit another essay, consistently reminding them to apply whatever they've learned about the English language. Most often than not, she says, they don't fail her.

Learning in the streets

Outs usually on the "out-of-this-world" metaphorical, she was express choice of words that could really attract hackers in a Philippine school. It's no longer "I will go back to home," but simply "I will go home." "This hamburger has flour" is also a thing of the past.

Was teaching, however, happens in the streets, in daily interactions, in instances where her students get to express their subjects learned in the English language, according to Dory.

"Even if they get perfect scores in our exams," she points out, "the best won't mean a thing if, in the outside world, they remain tongue-tied because they can't speak the language."

In a grocery, for instance, Dory loves to coax a former student conversing with a white-skinned tourist, a common sight in Thailand. "Welcome to Thailand," the student might say. In which case, she would know that all those months of dedicated teaching had not gone to waste.

INSIDE THE CLASS. Dory tries to bombard her students with lessons on the practical use of English.

How do you tell teenage Thai students, for instance, that you don't say, "I didn't went to school yesterday"? That there's no need to convolute a sentence by saying, "I'm going to go..." Or worse, that "half-baked" isn't always taken literally.

RHODORA "DORY" BACILIO-Sometimes, they drive me mad, but at the end of the day, I know they've got the point of it."

The WORLD

Cito Lorenzo B. Gutoc

Saudi foils planned air suicide attacks

RIYADH—SAUDI ARABIA SAID IT HAD ARRESTed 172 suspected al-Qaida militants on Friday, seizing weapons and cash, with some of them plotting airborne suicide attacks on oil facilities and army bases.

"Some individuals were training really to carry out terrorist attacks ... Some of the rolls arrested planned to target oil installations and extraction," interior ministry spokesperson Gen. Mansur al-Turki said.

Saudi television showed footage of security personnel searching a house and finding containers full of cash, weapons and communications equipment. They also searched four cars to research student visas containing machine guns.

Further images showed heaps of weapons being pulled from dusty holes in the sand at an unidentified desert location.

The suspects, including Saudis and foreign residents, belonged to seven cells, the ministry said in a statement that did not disclose the foreigners' nationalities.

Turki said their targets included "military bases in and outside" of Saudi Arabia.

He said he did not know which military bases outside Saudi borders were among the targets, adding that there were no foreign bases in the kingdom itself.

The US Air Force relocated its Gulf headquarters from Saudi Arabia to the tiny neighboring emirate of Qatar in 2003, ending a 13-year presence in the kingdom, a key US ally and the world's top oil exporter.

Pentagon officials said at the time that several hundred US military personnel stayed behind to perform tasks such as training.

The arrests were one of the largest sweeps announced by Saudi Arabia, which has been battling suspected al-Qaida militants since they launched a wave of shootings and bombings, many targeting Westerners, in May 2003.

In December, Riyadh announced the arrest of 136 suspected al-Qaida militants over three months.

Turki told AFP the latest arrests were made over a lengthy period of time in several parts of the vast country.

The ministry statement, carried by official media, said one of the cells was made up of 61 mostly Saudi men, some of whom had gone abroad to train to fly aircraft with the intention of carrying out terrorist attacks.

In addition to planning suicide operations against oil and military targets, the suspects from the "deviant group"—official terminology for persistent al-Qaida militants—also planned to attack public figures, it said, without elaborating.

Fifteen Saudis were among the hijackers who crashed their planes into New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon near Washington on Sept. 11, 2001, killing nearly 3,000 people. AFP

Karzai offers olive branch to Taliban

KABUL—AFGHANI PRESIDENT Hamid Karzai marked the 28th anniversary of the defeat of communist rule on Saturday with a fresh call to the Taliban to give up their insurgency amid rising violence.

Mujahideen warriors captured Kabul on April 28, 1992, ending the rule of a pro-Soviet government that was ushering in a civil war that only ended when the Taliban seized power in 1996.

The Taliban, ousted by US and coalition forces in late 2001, have since last year unleashed a wave of unprecedented violence and suicide bombings, ambushes and raids, in their drive to oust foreign forces and defeat Karzai's government.

"Today, while celebrating the jihad victory, we once again invite those who have sided with aliens because of ambitions against their country to give up ambitions and lead and join peaceful life," Karzai said in a victory day speech.

The ceremony was marked by a military parade that included Afghan soldiers of Afghanistan's fight against the Taliban and set alight an effigy of Mullah Omar, the Taliban's one-eyed supreme leader who was also the Taliban's supreme commander.

Karzai, who has been leading Afghanistan since soon after the Taliban were ousted, has called on rank-and-file Taliban to reject secret leaders from three years ago and has repeated his offer several times, but few have responded.

He has opened talks with former Taliban leaders in Kabul, but few details have emerged publicly.

Karzai said regional countries has prospered economically since the Taliban's ouster and there were further opportunities.

But on the eve of talks in Turkey with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf over accusations and counter-accusations on the two countries' governments, Karzai said to achieve their requested "better cooperation" against the Taliban and their Islamic allies.

"Overcoming destruction, killing, abduction by ... terrorists, requires earnest, honest cooperation of our brothers and neighboring countries, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and other regional countries." Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

Bush to Dems: Don't test my will on Iraq

CAMP DAVID, MARYLAND—Despite growing criticism of US policy in Iraq, President George W. Bush has warned Democrats not to "test my will" after he endured a bitter fight during a US troops' front in Iraq. Bush invited Democratic and Republican Party to discuss a coup out of their stalemate after he strikes down this bill, aggravating Congress this week after the Democrats won control of a majority US troops' front in Iraq. Bush invited Democrats and lawmakers of the Republican Party to discuss a coup out of their stalemate after he strikes down this bill, aggravating Congress this week after the Democrats won control of a majority in both houses to a troop withdrawal that would start on Oct. 1. But the pledge to strike down any subsequent attempt by the Democratic-led Congress to set a deadline for a pullout. "If the Congress sends to bed my will as it settles or not I'll accept this timetable for withdrawal, I won't accept this," he told reporters conference at his retreat in Camp David in Maryland. Today. "So I'll say mark my words that which those said was unacceptable, that will cause trouble it," Bush said. "But I hope it doesn't come to that. I believe we can work a way forward. And I think we can come to an agreement and make sure that we get the money to the troops in a timely fashion." The White House requested $70 billion to finance its Iraq and Afghanistan operations through September 2008. The bill passed $70 billion to the House of Representatives on Wednesday and 67–46 in the Senate on Thursday and includes a non-binding target of completing the troop pullout by March 31, 2008. AFP

Russia will counter US missile shield–Putin

MOSCOW—President Vladimir Putin on Friday renewed criticism of US plans to deploy a missile shield in Eastern Europe, saying Russia would take "appropriate measures" to counter the system. Putin told Czech President Vaclav Klaus at a Kremlin meeting that the proposed missile shield would be used to track Russian military activities. "Those systems will invade Russian territory as far as the third generation. If we don't react, we're left with a response." Putin told Klaus. "Shall we still defend this thing. Anyone would." "We will not just sit passively about this. We will just take appropriate measures," he said, without elaborating. Russia views the US plans to have 10 missile interceptors in Poland and radar in the Czech Republic from 2012 as a major threat to its national security. Washington says the system is needed to defend Europe and US forces there against rogue states. "Rogue states" such as Iran and North Korea. But Vice President Dick Cheney said the US plan would disrupt European stability and fuel a new Cold War-style arms race. Reuters

Scores hurt, 600 detained in Estonia violence

TALLINN—Estonia's parliament was ordered out under Saturday for the first time since the country regained its independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, as violence rocked Tallinn for a second night after the removal of a Soviet war memorial. Seventy-four people were injured, including nine police officers, as gangs made up mainly of young Russian speakers ran riot in Tallinn, smashing the entrance of the Art Academy, breaking into the National Theater and robbing liquor stores. Disturbances were also reported in the town of Jõhvi, 150 km (100 miles) northeast of Tallinn, a region inhabited mainly by ethnic Russians, marking a worrying trend that the violence could be spreading throughout the small country of 1.34 million people. Hitting that first in capital in Tallinn. Thursday night when police fired tear gas and a second group of youths from breaking through a security cordon to set up a memorial honoring Aleksei Ilgin of a Red Army soldier ahead of the statue's removal. AFP

US reveals capture of senior Qaida suspect

WASHINGTON—The United States revealed Friday the capture of a senior leader of Qaida commander who has been in the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba detention center for "war on terror" suspects. Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi, who allegedly led operations in Afghanistan and plotted the assassination of Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf, was taken to the Guantanamo Bay facility within the past week, the Defense Department announced. Al-Iraqi was intercepted and in route by police reach Iraq to manage al-Qaida operations and personally plan attacks against coalition forces in Iraq, Defense spokesperson Bryan Whitman said. Whitman said the suspect "was one of a few at the highest ranking and senior operatives at the time of his detention." AFP

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SMART brings Filipinos in Dubai closer to home.

It was a dream come true for thousands who trooped to the Dubai Country Club last April 30 to witness the biggest musical extravaganza to celebrate the launch of the newest Smart Pinoy OFW services to Filipinos in Dubai.

Gathering the Philippines' most sought-after performers, the event treated the guests to the things they miss most about the Philippines. Taking the lead were hosts Amel Ignacio and Joy Viado, who had the audience screaming and shouting when they dished out appliance showcases and cash prizes in the raffle.

Adding spice to the event was a singing contest dubbed as "The Search for the Smart Pinoy Idol." The karaoke challenge, conducted in cooperation with WOW Magic Sing, summoned 10 of the most revved-up contestants who sang their hearts out to impress the judges. When it was finally time to decide, David Pena from Al Ghuwais Dubai grabbed the top spot and took home the $500 cash prize plus a WOW Magic Sing Videoke Microphone.

The crowd literally went on their feet when Grammy Awards Vhong Navarro took center stage. With an awesome display of his chart-topping hit movie, he got the house grooving to his hit dance singles.

The dazzling evening crested on the spectacular performances of talented musician Ogie Alcasid and divine diva Zsa Zsa Padilla. The two headlined with a spirited set of Pinoy pop favorites that captivated the hearts of everyone in attendance.

"Smart Pinoy is committed to the plight of the Filipino migrant workers," says Ms. Jane Basas, Senior Product Manager of Smart International Services. "This concert shows our migrant workers to feel closer to home, that some way Smart Pinoy OFW Services bridge the physical and emotional distances of overseas labor." Basas adds.

The event was also attended by dignitaries from the local Filipino community, such as the Philippine Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, H.E. Libran N. Cabactulan, the Philippine Consul General to Dubai, Mr. Antonio D. Chaneng, Mrs. Virginia R. Cuñez, the Philippine Labor Attache to Dubai, and Mr. Eduardo Mendoza Jr., Welfare Officer to Dubai.

Ambassador Cabactulan was dreamy delighted by the response to the event. "I'm excited that Smart will bring services to our kababayans na hindi matingat sa bunsi, and many of them will be coming our way."

As Smart beefs up its service by offering a wide array of customized OFW services under the banner of Smart Pinoy, the event was a cornerstone in Smart's initiative to bring Filipinos closer to home. Armed with IDD, International Text, International MMS, International 3G Video Calling and remittance services, Smart Kaibi the diva of the Filipino worker for life betterment by delivering services that includes communication and foster solidarity.

The event is but the third in the series. It even shows to tour the Middle East to promote Smart and its strong stream of innovative services for the Filipino migrant workers. Smart invites all to seize the opportunity to keep families closer despite distance with the new Smart Pinoy OFW Services.

Sunday SPORTS

Alyric E. Melendres

[illegible] as Toyota's Chris Bahnyot and Floyd Dadkatoria battle for possession against Ronnie Matias of Hinabol Sinta.

Contrasting escapes for Batang Pier, Road Kings

By Jurnino N. Paya

Batang Pier Reinforcing from southern union, total drained nine of his 25 points in a third-quarter run that drove Batangas Cement on top by 20 points, 64-44, with three minutes left in the period.

The former Steven student came out with his best performance in the young conference by adding five rebounds, three steals and two blocks.

Jayet Arafta also contributed seven of his 13 markers in the second half surge, while Chico Lanete had 12, including a three-pointer in the final two minutes that put Batang Pier up at 75-65 after the Sinvergüenza Shooters closed the gap to a single figure, 72-63.

"I kept my faith in him," said coach Aric Vanguardia of Calubaog.

Calubaog, a streaky shooter from Iskatoon, nailed all but three attempts from beyond the arc and all his nine free throws.

Erick Rodriguez also highlighted his 17-point performance by burying two free throws that gave the Road Kings their first lead, 75-74, with 1:39 minutes left.

Dennis Daa delivered all of his 13 markers in the second half to help lift the Road Kings from a 10-point hole, 60-50, late in the third period.

New rookie guru Hendel Inks to his team of the lead with a baloonery jumper for a 71-70 edge. But the Steelers's shooting guard-soldier replicate Calubaog's heroics as he missed two three-point attempts in the closing seconds.

Toyota Balbuenaish trailed by as many as 10 points, 40-23, with Javier and Silliver Maintenon firing his in the first three quarters.

The Super Seakers, who skidded to their fourth straight loss, similarly blew a double-digit advantage against Hardware Cement in their last outing. The Sinvergüenza Shooters also settled near bottom at 1-3.

The scores:

First Game

HARDWARE CEMENT (79) – vidal 31, Arana 13, Lanete 12, Lagos 10, Delgado, Sapalot, Bernal 3, Abrera 4, Amparo 4, Espinosa 5, Zuñiga 2, Lagunzad, Angeles 2, Hernandez 10.

SAN MIGUEL BEERMEN (2) – Cardenio 15, Ramos 8, Enriquez 8, Velasco 5, Villanueva 2, Magpayo 2, Jones 4, Capistrano 4, Dichoso 4, Domingo 2, Angeles 2, Diaz 2, Gonzalez 2, Santiago 4, Serrano 2.

Quarters: 15-19, 40-33, 60-47, 79-51

Second Game

TOYOTA BALBUENA (74) – Calubaog 20, Enriquez 17, Dela Cruz 13, Ingalla 8, Adlawan 5, Cardinal 4, Tan 3, Alcantara 3, Pastrana 2, Dedicatoria 0, Jarnell, Gutierrez 0, Tabal 0.

HONDA WING 88 (74) – Javier 16, Maintenon 14, Mallari 7, Salcedo 6, Cortez 4, Bravo 4, Alba 4, Mauricio 3, Chavez 2, Nabal, Alvarez 2, Serrano 0.

Quarters: 11-25, 29-40, 49-62, 74-74

PBA All-Star game in Baguio gets going

By Mowang R. Canalla

BAGUIO CITY – THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association superstars, including the new faces of the national team, made their look higher mouth to have yesterday to put the icing on what has been a jovial All-Star Week cake.

Stars making up the North and South squads battled to break a 3-3 standoff in the annual extravaganza in the game set at 7 p.m. at the University of Baguio gym.

Coach Jong Gabisan of the North ABC has counterpart from the South, Tim Cone, have vowed to give the fans a show.

Even the players have promised viewers will. Air Tenders speaking of a Southern troop and Red Captain of the North telling every one to put for their games do the talking on the floor.

"This is only an exhibition game, yes, but the players' competitive nature tends to come to a game like this," Ticketer said. "Expect this game to be played hard and clean."

"Of course we're going to win there," Tenders, on the eve of the PBA Independent's departure from the Peninsula city to La Union on Friday, said. "There's no doubt about it."

Tenders will be joined in the fourth starting lineup by Danny Seigle, Eric Weeks, James Yap and Dondon Hontiveros, quite an assembly of stars which could go down as one of the most possible ever chosen by fans.

Cone, meanwhile, is "happy just being here. But definitely, we're going to win pero se here (for the fans)."

Cone has at his disposal the likes of Sunday Salvacion, Jeanie Theta, Jeremy Alapag, Cyrus Baguio, Reinold Tolibal, Rupit Yap and rookie Kelly Williams.

Gaptain and Barangay Ginebra buddy Jay Jay Helterbrand will be making up the core of the Red warriors, which, unlike the Iron Surety South, has the potential to run.

Rommel Adducul, Sunny Villanueva and Kerby Raymundo are the

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Day of the underdogs

Bulls push Heat to the brink; Warriors upset Mavs

MIAMI—AN INSPIRED PERFORMANCE BY THE Chicago Bulls pushed the defending NBA champion Miami Heat to the brink of elimination with a 104-96 victory on Friday.

Ben Gordon scored 27 points and Luol Deng had 19 to help the Bulls seize a 3-0 lead in their best-of-seven Eastern Conference series.

"We got a win on their home court and they're the defending champs," Gordon told reporters.

"It shows a lot of maturation as a team, and we've just got to continue to play this way.

Game Four is in Miami on Sunday.

No team in NBA history has rallied to win a playoff series after falling behind 3-0.

Miami led 73-66 with 9:41 remaining in the third period before the Bulls went on a 12-5 run to pull within four at quarter's end.

"Maybe last year or two years ago, we might have gotten down and been on our way to a 20-point blowout," guard Chris Duhon told reporters.

Chicago used a 15-2 fourth-quarter spurt to take a 79-72 lead before Heat guard Dwyane Wade's jumper brought them within three at 99-96 with 2:25 remaining.

The Bulls then wrapped up the win with free-throw accuracy.

Kirk Hinrich contributed 22 points and six assists to the Bulls.

Wade led the Heat with 26 points, while Shaquille O'Neal added 21 points and 13 rebounds.

In Oakland, California, Jason Richardson scored 30 points to help the Golden State Warriors upset the top-seeded Dallas Mavericks, 109-93, to take a surprise 2-1 lead in their Western Conference series on Friday.

Baron Davis added 24 points before a second-period shoving in first playoff game in Oakland for 13 years.

"We wanted to defend our home court. We didn't want to have that win in Dallas go to waste," the Warriors' Stephen Jackson told reporters.

"So we wanted to make sure we got one, and I think we did a good job of that," added Jackson, who had 26 points and eight rebounds.

Game Four is in Oakland on Sunday.

"They are still the best team in the league, they still have to be beat," the Warriors' Matt Barnes said.

"So every night we have to come in with the mind set that we are playing a monster. David and Goliath. And right now we are getting the upper hand."

Dirk Nowitzki and Josh Howard each had 20 points for the Mavericks. Jerry Stackhouse added 16 points off the bench.

Dallas came out firing with Nowitzki hitting his first three shots. But the Warriors fought back with their fast-paced style and Richardson scored 10 points in the quarter to help his side take a 29-20 lead.

The second quarter followed a similar pattern. Jason Terry scored nine points for the Mavericks, but the Warriors executed help from their bench, including Barnes who had seven points, as they extended their lead to a 61-49 at the half.

In the third quarter, the Mavericks tried to cut into the lead several times, but the Warriors were always there to answer.

Terry tallied and Nowitzki also scored six points in the last 1:30 of the period.

The Warriors ran away with the game in the fourth, pushing their lead up to 22 points midway through the quarter.

"We have a lot of confidence in ourselves, but the good thing about this team is we stay humble," Jackson said.

Hero triumph

Meanwhile, Jason Kidd had 19 assists in another triple-double performance and Vince Carter scored 27 points as the New Jersey Nets overwhelmed the visiting Toronto Raptors 102-85 to take a 2-1 lead in their Eastern Conference series.

Kidd also had 16 points and 14 rebounds in his 13th postseason triple-double.

The hero never trailed, outscoring the Raptors 31-19 in the first period to set the tone.

T.J. Ford led Toronto with 27 points.

Game Four is in New Jersey on Monday.

Reuters

CAVS Mo Williams can only lower his head as his Mavericks lose to the Warriors.

MIAMI guard Dwyane Wade and the rest of the Heat see their hopes of a title defense slowly crashing against the stubborn Chicago Bulls.

Wrestlers grappling with SEAG problems

UAAP fives pace Nike Summer League

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THERE IS ONE THING PHILIPPINE wrestling is still trying to grapple with. The last time it wasn't included in the Olympics was in 1936.

The sport, the preferred disciplines banning and taekwondo, is governed by weight classes, technically giving the Filipinos equal footing against foreign rivals, said Jocyp Gallecio, Col. Montes Dispo.

And that's the point, which is often a combat sport that showcases the courage, agility and strength teams to local wrestlers, said Jocyp.

"We are trying to convince them to include us in the Olympic program because our have a fighting chance here in the Olympics," said Jocyp.

Wrestling pave the country few gold medals, three silvers and two bronzes for-

ing the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

But it is facing an uphill climb in Thailand this December as the SEAG organizers have canceled all Greco-Roman events and the heavyweight category in Freestyle.

"Thailand is prepared to win it all," said Fuentes, who said the last that the 58kg, 120kg divisions in Freestyle was among those scheduled.

The Philippines ruled the events with Nestor Villanueva bagging the gold in freestyle, and Marcos Baldo in Greco Roman. Japan and Vietnamese is trying to shift to a lighter category to make the SEAG any more tense.

Meanwhile, wrestling officials are hoping to find former local superstars in the sport when it hosts the Asian Juniors Wrestling Championships on July 6-8 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Que, Delariarte eye top 10 finish

NCR booters book finals ticket

PBA All-Star game in Baguio gets going

Subic Bay triathlon slated

Nightmare for ex-Olympian

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MEGA SALE!

Tuason bets show might

THE TUASON RACING HEARTBEAT RACING Team fastened its might behind Arbe Yu Jalbo, Ruby Benito and Joey Dollete in the second leg of the 2007 Shell Helix Racing Super Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit recently.

It was one successful weekend for the team, supported by Hubbig Oil and TorqGlut, as it copped two champion trophies, a runner-up and a third place trophy that all ended in photo finish.

Tuason notched a surprise victory with his last minute maneuver as heads it a 1-2 finish for Hubbig Racing #20 together with Benito in the NOK Junior division.

He was running third behind Jose Benito who dominated the early going of the race. Tuason saw the opportunity to savor the lead in the last 20 meters as Benito ignored wide enough for Tuason to squeeze in and win the race by a nose.

Dollete notched a runner-up finish but his teammate maneuver proved to be

Salud declines De La Hoya invitation to attend fight versus Mayweather

OSCAR De La Hoya has extended an invitation to boxing MMC secretary-general Rudy Salud to be at ringside on May 5 for his super lightweight bout with Floyd Mayweather Jr. at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. "But Boy Abunda is also on it and he said he may be there if the biggest fight of my career will defend my WBC super welterweight title against the Puerto Rican Ricardo Mayorga and the world's Floyd Mayweather Jr.," De La Hoya said in his letter to Salud (normal through boxing promoter Sammy Salita) and "Alongside my family, I would like to have you present at ringside, as my personal guest". Salud, however, has turned down the invitation by both invitees. **Salud L. Lagandaa Contributor**

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Fiesta Fistiana unfolds tonight

A PHILIPPINE CHAMPIONSHIP EXCITING non-title fights and bouts between women boxers are featured in the Fiesta Fistiana tonight at the Rajah Sulaiman Park in Malate, Manila.

Open free to the public starting at 6 p.m., the event organized by the Philippine Sportswriters Association in cooperation with the Games and Amusements Board and the City of Manila is being held to raise funds for destitute and disabled boxers.

Philippine super bantamweight champion Mey Bonayot, who will make his title against IF-Ho. 2 Alex Nerino in the 12-round main bout of the event sponsored by Sun Miguel Corp., Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. and the Philippine Sports Commission, said the event will encourage other aspiring boxers to work harder knowing there are still some opportunities who are willing to promote fights.

The event is also being supported by Philippine Airlines, 100, Cebuo Philippines and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Sir Gerson Cuello, the host against Cuello Boxing is crucial in his quest to take the No. 1 spot in the mosquitoweight division.

Instead of going out cold, organizers are handing out freebies called left -or "jungle-dodgers" kaos to help the trained boxers maneuver their own ways of boxing.

This year's staging of the Fiesta Fistiana also highlights the Manila Sports Council and Arnold "Al" Abrazo's boxing program aimed at making a medal or a champion in the city.

VICTOR: Japan de Asis crosses the finish line by his forearms in the Bike Adventure race at the Nike + Pan Pacific Island recently at Port Barton in Taguig City. De Asis wins a Nike + iPOD post the duration 1 h minutes.

Brand-new Toyota Yaris at stake at the 8th Belle Cup

A brand-new Toyota Yaris will be given away as the major prize for the **8th Belle Cup Golf Tournament** to be held on May 2 to 5, 2007. This number-point tournament which will be held in Tagaytay Highlands and Mahogany golf courses is set to be the biggest golf event of the year with over 400 participants to swing their clubs for the prizes at stake. Get a chance to win a brand-new golf cart, a trip to any US destination, a luxurious cruise trip for two to Baja, Mexico and so much more.

A Hollywood inspired awarding ceremony will be held on May 5 at the Sports Center Mahogany-Tagaytay Hall at where a sumptuous buffet dinner awaits the participants.

For more details and inquiries, please call Golf Services Office at (046) 483-2639

Eagles, Archers collide

THE ATENEO BLUE Eagles are anticipating a big challenge as they host the La Salle Green Archers in the semi-game of today's opening triple-header in the Filoil-Flying V Pre-Season basketball Cup at the New Smart domestic/int-Aura.

Ateneo-head coach Norman Black has been pressing his team mentally and physically because he is anticipating a freshest game from Franz Pumaren's La Salle squad, which is coming off an entire duty after serving a one-year suspension meted by the NAAP.

True, the Green Archers may be a bit weary, but Black is anticipated across in the Philippine Basketball Association, to taking no chances. In fact, Black is urging his mostly ex-players to give their best against their collegiate.

The Archers, who joined the Filoil-Flying V Preseason basketball Cup last year, are hoped to win some in stadium Ray Stanchfield, Dodo Villanueva, Ty Tang, and JV Cortez, who are expected to see more of duty for La Salle.

The first game between NCAA defending champion Ateneo Blue Eagles versus perennial title contender La Salle at 2 p.m. while Jose Rizal University faces an open, double-header National University at 4 p.m.

A jungle welcome arise and ceremonial toss by special guests Jose Mario Jr. Pancho, Filoil executive Vice President Ricky Cojuangco, Total Philippines vice president for sales Jaime Flores with league chair David Dunbar and Commissioner Fegal Villaroman will be mostly open the season-long event.

Tickets are available at Ticketnet or Ticket at the gate of the San Juan Arena. The games will be broadcast live over Solar Sports and TV5.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Supply and Delivery of Metal License Plates

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the sum of Php[illegible] being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for supply and delivery of [illegible] plates metal license plates.

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of [illegible] metal license plates. Delivery is required within 30 calendar days from receipt of Notice of Award. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section 3 of the Bidding Documents. **Instruction to Bidders (ITB)**

Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using Non-Discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part II (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships and organizations with at least seventy percent (70%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and adopted by Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II - [illegible] of the Bidding Documents. (ITB)

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P10,000.00. The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on May 11, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. at the NFA Conference Room, 4th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements have to delivered on the 16th Conference Room, 4th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City on May 24, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount:

Form of Security	Percentage Amount in Relation to Bid(s)
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or confirmed Letter of Credit	Five percent (5%)
Bank Guarantee	Five and a half percent (5.5%)
Surety Bond obtained "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%) of Bid
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid Opening shall be on May 24, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. at the NFA Board Room, 4th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder(s) or their representatives.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For: [illegible]
Procuring Entity : NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Attention : Jose P. Cruz / Nestor E. Villanueva
Address : Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City
Telephone/Fax No. : (632) 406-1750
Mobile No. : [illegible]
e-mail address : nestorevillanueva@nfa.gov.ph
Website : www.nfa.gov.ph

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Golf Digest

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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Ryokan

Send your feedback! Inquire to sundaybiz@inq7.net or SMS (Smart) E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph

Ex-OFW brings automation to RP

By Karlo Jose B. Pineda
Contributor

ALL HE WANTED WAS TO drive his own car. Little did he know that this simple dream would lead him to greater things in life.

Gabriel Tan was 20 years old when he went off to seek overseas. As he was set to embark on a new venture, several thoughts ran through his mind but his goals were crystal clear: He would work hard to survive economic pressures and to purchase a car of his own.

Jimmy, as he is fondly called, worked as an instrumentation engineer at Honeywell-Saudi Petrochemical Corp. in Jubail, Saudi Arabia starting in 1984. Holding a degree in electrical engineering, which he earned from the University of San Carlos in Cebu, Jimmy was already a licensed professional electrical engineer when he went to the Middle East.

JIMMY TAN

He stayed there for only two years but the experience he acquired in Honeywell was more than enough to inspire him to put up a business that would not only give him economic independence but would also help local manufacturing firms automate.

Thus, with his wife, Grilie, established in 1989 the Industrial Controls Corp., today's leading provider of products and services to clients in the automotive, mining, electronics, pharmaceutical, petrochemical, food and beverage and packaging industries.

Need for change

The business started as a consulting firm, but it later evolved into a specialist in factory automation, instrumentation and industrial controls systems that simplify production processes. Industrial Controls was the first in the country to have developed devices designed to control machinery on factory assembly lines called PLC (Programmable Logic Controller) systems.

"There was a need for an industrial revolution of sorts as technology proved to go beyond mere upgrading of computers," said Tan, who now counts the city with a DMW license 3.

Despite being accustomed to the thrills and thins in the field of engineering before flying for Saudi—he was a teacher at the University of the Philippines Diliman for brief while before—and was attending seminars in automation and instrumentation in Japan to help expand the business's revenue—Tan's success was not achieved overnight.

After the expiration of his Honeywell contract, he decided not to renew and, instead, go back to the Philippines. Upon his return, he bought a used car and spent P100,000 for a business that involved the operation of three tricycles to be driven by hired drivers. But the venture was short lived. He gave it up when

(EX-OFW 2)

Consortium hopes to turn muscovado into a winner

By Hazel P. Villa
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—A RECENTLY FORMED consortium hopes to propel the production of muscovado sugar into a sunshine industry given the emerging demand.

Considering the health repercussions of taking in food and drinks rich in sugar, consumers are now becoming more health conscious and looking for alternatives that would make them enjoy their sugary food requirements the guilt feelings.

Muscovado sugar is naturally processed sugarcane juice, which is non-crystalline and characterized by its golden brown color, unique aroma and taste that makes it a favorite alternative sugar in the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Japan and the US (see table—earning US$10.00 million in total export for the Philippines from 1997 to 2005.

According to the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), 200 small mills are annually producing 15,000 metric tons of muscovado in 21 provinces, with Antique having the most mills, followed by Iloilo, Pangasinan and Isabela in Mindanao.

Even with all the mills running at full speed, the Philippines could not cope with the demand for the sugar-cure health commodity.

In 2005, the SRA said the Philippines re-

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IN THIS ISSUE

Pangasinan fisherfolk study birds and the bees /B2

A LEADER'S WAY

The 360-degree leader /B4

John C. Maxwell

Pangasinan fisherfolk study birds and the bees

Text and Photos
by Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

SUAL, PANGASINAN—MANgroves may not be the best-looking trees around with their gnarled trunks and branches reaching to the waters.

But there's something very sweet about them: Their flowers' nectar that bees turn into honey.

That gift of the mangroves has provided a new source of livelihood in some 20 fisherfolk and residents of this inland town's Agno-dotted barangays.

Agriculture in honey bee-pasturing, on the initiative of the Saggit Lingayen Gulf and the local government of Sual.

"We wanted a livelihood project linked to the natural environment, one which was not ecologically destructive but rather would enhance the environment," says Tina Bauzo, a staff of the SLG project.

The SLG-assisted agriculture as the bees are very helpful in the reproduction of mangroves. They are natural pollinators—carrying pollen from flowers in flower as they collect nectar for the queen bee in the colony.

SAMPLE products made from honey

CABANA shows where bees deposit honey

Through agriculture, mangroves are naturally propagated and fishermen earn from the honey produced by the bees, fisher says.

Residents are thus more encouraged to plant mangroves and other flowering plants to provide food for their bees.

According to Severina Salinas, an expert on mangroves, three mangrove species are good sources of nectar: sonneratia, Rhizophora and Lagunculariia.

The first two species are available in Anda, with Avicennia flowering year-round, and the Rhizophoras from October to December.

Benilda Manzanilla, a beekeeper assistant of the SLG project, says the nectar produced on the island has a "distinct taste and is not too sweet, unlike those produced in Bayside City (where the nectar sources are the seaflowers) which are very sweet."

She says this could be because the bees' sources of water are brackish water wells (combination of salt and fresh water).

The 20 fishermen from eight villages involved in coastal resource management (CRM) projects underwent training on apiculture. They were given three colonies (quiney boxes) each.

Benita Cassilo, principal of Anda National High School who is also involved in honey bee production, says it is not difficult to sell the honey produced by the residents.

MANGROVES B2

HONEY is flavored tablespoon-packed honey

Ex-OFW brings automation ...

From page B1

profession with his drivers and the rising maintenance costs caused grating him his heroes and his hard-earned savings. He then decided to go back to involving automation systems.

Even in retailing, Ilao was able to make use of what he learned in Honeywell by assisting them in industrial automation and instrumentation systems' courses, which he pioneered and backed up with free diffusion modules.

"My two-year stint in Honeywell was just like acquiring a Masters degree in engineering technology. I learned all there was to know about industrial control technology, including hands-on procedures," Ilao recalled. "I was also operational knowledge because I knew how useful it was I would be in the local engineering scene."

And the 53-year-old engineer was right.

His "specialized knowledge" gave him his break in 1999 and kept him going. After doing a feasibility study for Ancinec Corp., Ilao's Industrial Controls were on and bagged deals with big firms such as Colgate-Palmolive, which it helped in streamlining its production systems, and Toyota Motors Philippines.

Technopreneur

"It would be an honor to be featured as one of the Stars Filipinos who started as a foreign land just to seek a decent life," Ilao told the Inquirer, "but I would like pleased to be highlighted as a technopreneur."

Ilao has much reason to be proud in emerging as a technology-based entrepreneur as his corporation is now amassing heights. Boasting a top-of-the-line workforce, Industrial Controls was able to delegate 22 of its staff to do mechatronics maintenance contracting in some of the country's biggest names in business such as San Miguel, Pantranco Homtel, Air Liquid, and Unilever. The company, which was certified by the Aegis-Japanese Registrars (an independent third party registrar), has also tied up with Omron of Japan and Honeywell USA for the distribution of automation equipment here.

The success of Industrial Controls prompted Ilao to put up another firm, Mechatronics Technologist Corp. (MTC), which offers industry-based training programs and which complements the firm company's operations. MTC conducts basic instrumentation, programmable logic controllers and human machine interfaces classes at the UP Institute for Small Scale Industries and the Technology and Extra-terrestrial Science Development Academy.

According to Ilao, also the General Manager of MTC, the corporation has so far trained more than 150, 000 plant engineers and technicians, most of them now working overseas.

For this, Ilao was nominated for the outstanding Ulumbong Filipino for Inspiration Award given by the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship as part of the Go Negosyo thrive to mga OFWs at Balikbayan program.

Mechatronics mini-Olympics

Here the technological wave grows greater by the year. Ilao thought it best to entice the youth, especially those in the secondary education, to go into technical-logical training through free seminars and conduct mini-skills competition.

Called the Mechatronics Mini-Olympics, Ilao, who is also vice president of the Mechatronics and Robotics Society of the Philippines, has been rallying the youth to take part in this yearly event. This year's competition will be held in May. The event is aimed at honing the skills of the youth in electronics and robotics early, and widening their interest in this field.

"The complex deal on robotics and mechatronics could be fun as well," Ilao said. "The Philippines won 4th place last year in the elementary robotics Mindsall Olympics held in Korea. We also made robots who do the stunt, since one of the categories of the games was dancing."

Presently, Ilao has his hands full in preparing Filipino bets for the 2007 MindSkills Mechatronics Competition in Japan and the Asian Mechatronics to be held in Malaysia next year.

Consortium hopes to turn muscovado ...

From page B2

panned 300,00 metric tons abroad, but the Japanese alone want more than 600 metric tons per shipment.

Global demand

With the global demand for organic products steadily increasing at 20 to 30 percent a year, the Western Visayas Agriculture and Resources Research and Development Consortium (Wescrandc) has started to focus on muscovado with Antique province as its key production area.

The Wescrandc, formally organized in May 5, 1988, is an organization of institutions and agencies, which attempts to pool technical expertise and other resources related to research and development activities in the region.

On Nov. 10, 2006, the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (Pcaarrd) awarded to Wescrandc the Gawad Saliksik at Kalasag (Gawad sa Agno-Kalasag Consortium in the Country based on its "exemplary research and development and performance for 2004-2005."

With the University of the Philippine in the Visayas as its lone agency and Muelloz I, Ang Lyceo and Passi Trinidad Agroindustrial Corporation, Wescrandc is "mandated to establish a unified regional research and development management group for the purpose of planning, integrating, reviewing, and coordinating programs of various member institutions and agencies."

Niche commodity

Nicolasito Calimag, provincial agriculturist of Antique, says that organic sugar such as muscovado is a niche commodity in the Philippines, hailing supermarkets, specialty and organic shops, and pinahilong animal nationalistic also carry this type of sweetener.

Muscovado values on many forms and guises by as many names. If it is produced as the more popular sanitized soft-brown powder, it is called Galorasy or Tapapdot. It goes by the name Panocheal it is in long form and molded in halved coconut shells, and known when muscovado is in the form of thick concentrated evaporated juice.

Domestic prices for muscovado sugar is from P45 to P60 per kilogram in retail, and when sold for export, it is $600 to $1,200 per metric ton, said Calimag.

The Wescrandc and the Regional Development Council focused on the muscovado as a commodity because Antique province on the region has long been a leading producer of muscovado sugar. Antique is the biggest muscovado producer since the 1960s followed by Negros Occidental, Bohol and, lately, Cagayan province.

The Wescrandc has identified Alaer Trade Corp., in Brgy. Occidental and Pinoy Fair Trade in Iloilo as the leading muscovado exporters.

Internal problems

As is typical with Philippine producers moving for a substantial share of the global market amid stiff competition from other countries, the local muscovado players first have to settle their internal problems and concerns before they can actually say they are ready for the world.

The SDA, according to Calimag, rates the muscovado industry as "backyard" by its standards. Also, some areas devoted to muscovado measure only about 5,000 hectares, "or a measly 0.7% of the total land area of 700,000 hectares engaged for commercial cane production," he added.

Despite the limited demand for the commodity abroad, "the estimated current 13,000 tons muscovado production is 0.66 percent of the country's 2,230 million metric tons refined sugar production."

The 3,000 muscovado farmers represent only 6 percent of the country's 50,000 commercial sugarcane farmers.

Calimag said that, for muscovado producers and farmers to succeed, they should be organized and/or registered to have access to formal credit sources.

They also have to upgrade facilities and adopt better processing technology in order to increase productivity and come up with products that conform to standard specifications, he said.

Calimag also said there was a need to develop different forms of muscovado to suit market demand as well as improve packaging and shelf life.

Consortium spirit at work

The Wescrandc, the province of Antique, the government and private sectors all hope that the "consortium spirit"—unity of purpose—will work to develop the industry, utilizing all resources at their disposal—would be enough to sustain the development of the muscovado industry.

Last year, the Antique Provincial Board approved a resolution for the joint undertaking between the provincial government and the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) Inc. to develop a master plan for the muscovado industry in the province of Antique.

Also, the government granted a loan assistance worth P900,000 for the upgrade of eight mills, packaging facilities for muscovado confectionery (Binsil and Bulang-bulang) and other development needs.

DOST at the helm

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) also helped the industry out by implementing the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP). 2006 has members of the Antique Muscovado Sugar Producers Marketing Cooperative.

Under the program, eight muscovado mill owners were each provided with P85,000 as technology assistance for mill upgrading, specifically for the fabrication of stainless steel crushing mills and evaporating pans/clarifiers.

The DOST also conducted training on packaging and labelling of muscovado sugar and other related products.

The national government has also embarked on the Muscovado Process Standardization Project, which has a P5-million budget for five years to establish processing standards for muscovado.

The Wescrandc, as a consortium, hopes to address the internal concerns of the muscovado industry, as well as take the first steps toward making it the center for muscovado technology. Private muscovado-making people elsewhere can join the bandwagon of muscovado.

SMART and RIM Introduce the BlackBerry 8800 Smartphone in the Philippines

Manila, The Philippines and Waterloo, ON - 25 April 2007 - SMART Communications, through their Corporate Business Group (CBG), and Research In Motion (RIM) today announced plans to bring the innovative BlackBerry® 8800 smartphone to the Philippines. Together with BlackBerry® Enterprise Server or BlackBerry® Internet Service, the BlackBerry 8800 is a powerful and easy-to-use mobile phone that enhances mobility and productivity.

The BlackBerry 8800 is the thinnest BlackBerry handset yet. It incorporates best-in-class technology and delivers the industry-leading mobile experience that users have come to love. The BlackBerry 8800 smartphone also features a built-in GPS (Global Positioning System) - a first of its kind for BlackBerry smartphones in the Philippines. It comes with a full QWERTY keyboard, multimedia capabilities such as microSD expandable memory slot.

The BlackBerry 8800 also incorporates Voice Activated Dialing, noise cancellation for enhanced audio performance, a high-quality, hands-free speakerphone, Bluetooth® support and dedicated volume and mute keys to make talking on the move more comfortable. In addition, the BlackBerry 8800 smartphone has a high-capacity battery giving users the ability to take care of business and still have plenty of power left over for leisure.

"The BlackBerry 8800 smartphone will elegantly blends a stylish design and a full-featured smartphone with the gold standard in wireless email. Through the integration of hardware, software and services, we are able to deliver a mobile experience that stands apart in the industry. We are extremely excited to be launching the BlackBerry 8800 with SMART," said Norm Lo, Vice President for Asia, Research In Motion.

Eric Alberto, Senior Vice President and Head of the PLDT CBG adds, "Since being the first in the Philippines to launch the BlackBerry solution, we have seen the usage grow to become a vital business tool for mobile professionals. Today, email portability and mobility are means for easy devising industry. Plus, the evolution of BlackBerry handsets over the last few years a notable aspect of managing."

The BlackBerry 8800 smartphone also offers enhanced flexibility for SMART Corporate customers. Mobile professionals can access a range of corporate mobile applications including Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and field service solutions such as Sales Force Automation (SFA).

"Indeed, the incorporation of SMART's mobile applications with the BlackBerry 8800 smartphone's functionality makes it a formidable business tool for managing a field force," said Norbert Rainen, Head for PLDT Business Solutions. "Here with just a few clicks of a button, customers will be able to access files from their databases. This can mean time and add efficiency to any business transaction."

The BlackBerry 8800 smartphone is scheduled to be available through SMART beginning in May.

PLDT SVP & Corporate Business Group Head Eric Alberto (rear) and the BlackBerry 8800 as he hands to AVP for Asia Pacific Norm Lo

MUSCOVADO

Pangasinan fisherfolk study birds and the bees

From page B1

"The production is not even enough to meet the needs of our neighbors," she says.

A liter of honey is sold for P500, a little more expensive than those sold in the market because when we sell here is really pure honey, she says.

Cecilia adds that she started with two apiary boxes in November last year. She now has four boxes, which can produce 15 kg of honey every month during lean time, which runs from January to May.

The four members in Tee that the number of apiary boxes can be doubled in a few months.

The bees used for honey bee production are "exotic and won't sting unless provoked," Rosco says. You handle them with care and they will reward you with more honey."

The honey bee producers extract the honey at the same time, using an extractor provided by the TLC project. The honey is then filtered and put into bottles, ready for marketing.

Beekeeping is not also that labor intensive, although those involved in the project must guard against some problems like predators and chemical sprays.

A type of bird—called bee eaters—migrates to the inland during rainy season. A bird can eat about a hundred bees a day and the collected bees can be destructive to bees, Rosco says.

It was big problem for the beekeepers, but it offered another lesson in environmental protection.

"They wanted to kill the bee eaters," Rosco says. "We told them that it was too dear to eat for an environmental-friendly solution."

The solution: Bring the apiary boxes to Bayani City while the bee eaters are on the island.

"It entailed some cost, but they understood that it was the best solution," Rosco says.

The spraying of chemicals is another major problem.

At one time, almost all the bees in eight sitios died when somebody sprayed plants with chemicals. Residents have stopped the destructive practice.

The goes to show that with their beekeeping project, the ladies are learning their lesson on environment—the sweet thing with the bees.

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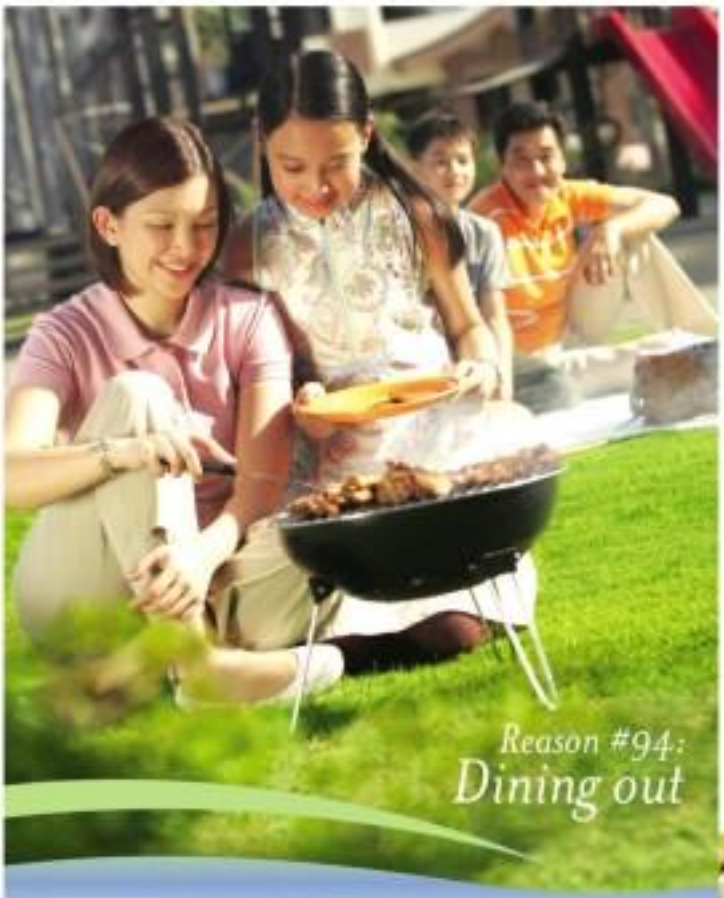

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The 360-degree leader

IN ALL MY YEARS OF GAINSAY TEACHING and consulting, I have never observed an organization with too many leaders. Organizations can never have enough!

However, most companies operate their vision to a limited number of leadership positions, and when hiring leaders, they think only in terms of filling the top spots.

Leaders generate value

Organizations rise and fall on the merit of their leadership—at every level.

Successful organizations cannot afford to wait until someone gets "to the top" to start leading. They need 360° leaders now. Why? Because leaders generate value!

Over the years, a set of common myths has hindered leaders in the middle of an organization.

In this column, I'd like to identify three myths and look at the qualities engendered by leaders who make an impact from the middle of the pack.

- **The Position Myth—"I can't lead if I am not at the top."**

If I had to identify the number one misconception people have about leadership, it would be the belief that leadership comes simply from having a position or title.

Wrong concepts

When we contemplate leadership in our minds, we tend to picture the names atop the organizational chart.

When asked to name a leader, most of us would list presidents, CEOs, or general managers.

We erroneously think leadership is position, when in reality leadership is influence.

- **The Destination Myth—"When I get to the top, then I'll lean on load."**

Human nature engenders yesterday circumstances tomorrow and underestimates today.

Looking today prepares a leader for more and greater responsibility tomorrow.

If a leader doesn't try out leadership skills and decision-making processes when the risks are low, they're likely to get into trouble at higher levels where the cost of mistakes is higher and the exposure is greater.

- **The Influence Myth—"If I were on top, then people would automatically follow me."**

People who have no leadership experience tend to overemphasize the importance of a leadership title.

A person may be appointed to a position, but he or she must earn the right to lead. The position doesn't make the leader; the leader makes the position.

- **The Competence Myth—"When I get to the top, I'll be in control."**

A bold young leader may become impatient when seeing areas for improvement within the organization. "If I were in charge, we wouldn't have done this, and we would have done that. Things would be different around here if I were in charge."

The desire to improve and the self-confidence to make changes are admirable leadership qualities.

Complex variables

However, without real life experience, a young leader is likely to overestimate the amount of control held by leaders at the top. The higher you go...and the larger the organization—the more you realize the complex mix of variables that control the organization.

- **The Freedom Myth—"When I get to the top, I'll no longer be limited."**

Climbing the ranks of leadership does not earn the leader a ticket to freedom. Rights diminish and responsibilities grow as you ascend the corporate ladder.

Leaders who sit at the highest levels is accompanied by a shimmering set of challenges.

- **The Potential Myth—"I can't reach my potential if I'm not the top leader."**

In reality, most people will never be the top leader in an organization.

They will spend their careers somewhere in the middle. Strive to reach the top of your game, not the top of the organization.

- **The All-or-Nothing Myth—"If I can't get to the top, then I won't try to lead."**

People who are unwilling to lead if to whom you're may be tempted to abandon their influence when they hit a barrier to a bigger promotion. These people look to an organization, recognize they will not be able to make it to the top, and give up.

They are made it, "If I can't be the captain of the team, then I'll take my ball and go home."

Defining qualities of a 360° leader

- **Adaptability—Quickly adjusts to change.**

Leaders in the middle may not be the first to know, but they are often the ones in charge of implementation.

Adaptable managers in the middle are willing to embrace a change operationally even if they are not yet ready to do so emotionally.

- **Discernment—Understands the real issues.**

Good leaders cut through the clutter to see the real issues.

A smart person believes only half of what he hears, but a truly smart person knows what half to believe.

- **Security—Finds identity in self, not position.**

Effective 360° leaders are secure enough in who they are to not worry about where they are.

Instead of focusing on reaching a position, they focus on reaching their potential.

- **Service—Gains fulfillment in serving everyone.**

A servant leader serves the mission and leads by serving those on mission ministers or her.

The true measure of leaders is not the number of people who serve them but the number of people they serve.

- **Resourcefulness—Finds creative ways to make things happen.**

Creativity is the joy of not knowing it till. He utilizes, if ever, have all the answers, but we always have the imagination to create solutions to our problems.

- **Honesty—Puts the team before self.**

Nobody who possesses an unwavering mental attitude is able to develop much influence with others.

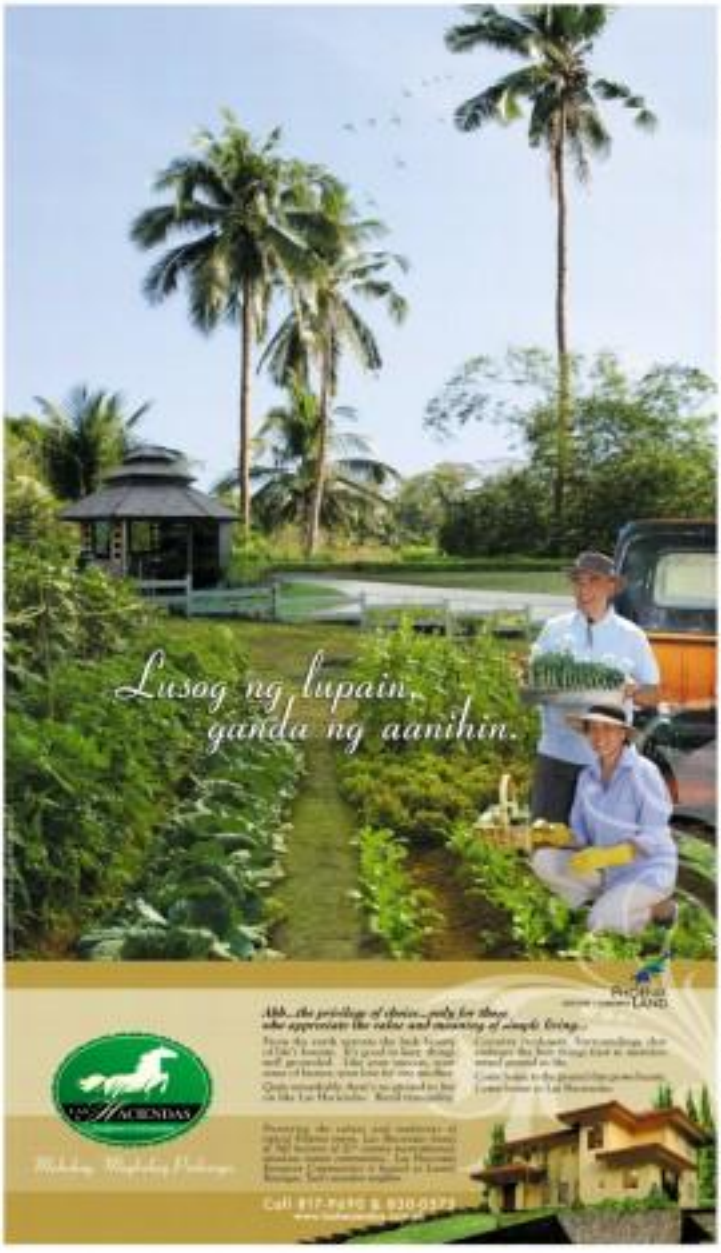
A mature leader sees beyond his or her personal vantage point and has the courage to make sacrifices which advance the team.

- **Communication—Links to all levels of the organization. He often think of communication in organization as being primarily top-down.**

Leaders at the top can vision, set direction, reward progress, etc. However, good communication is a 360-degree proposition.

In fact, oftentimes, the most critical communication comes from leaders identifying problems or solutions at the ground level and sending them up the chain of command.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email us at blog@inquirer.ph or call 415-2000 and ask for Joy or Bing. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (SMART) to get daily 360° leadership insights from John Maxwell.)



Sunday LIFESTYLE
Color Chaos Band-Formoso

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■ Families build their own boats /H1
■ Playtime with DOT Sec. Ace Durano /G1

ROOTS AND WINGS
Cathy Babao-Guballa

Coming full circle

RETURNING TO THE lifestyle section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer is a serendipitous event of sorts for me. Early this year, I realized my heart was longing to return to the world of writing and to pursue other advocacies more aligned with who I am and my purpose in life. And then this column came along....

A parenting column is a dream come true for me. Several times in my history there is, to be exact, I have set aside a major portion of my life to discuss my views in my children. There has never been a question of pouring dreams and other concerns on the back burner to have

of raising my children. To this day, God and family still come first.

For here is parents for 16 years now (God blessed my husband and me with three children) but called the middle child back home to heaven after five full years. Through my children, I've known the depths of grief as well as immeasurable joy over the last 16 or so years. My children have been my greatest teachers and I know that there is so much yet they will have to teach from them.

In my home now, there is the young lady at 16—the aspiring doctor whom we like to call our kicking, singing chef. And there there is she 8-year-old boy who is the resident geek, comic, blowing enthusiast, and wonderfully rolled into one. Between the two of them, there is never a dull parenting day. I cannot begin to imagine how it goes for other larger, more colorful households!

Some folk, the American physicians and researchers who developed the Sanpito exercise, once said: "Good parents give their children roots and wings. Roots to know where home is and wings to fly away and exercise what's been taught them." Thus, this is what the column hopes to give you weekly...pieces of advice, snippets of wisdom from books, experts and practical things that you can do for and with your children to enable you to firmly establish their roots while they are young and strengthen their wings to enable them to fly when the time comes.

Giving roots

The "Feel Good Parenting" website defines the purpose of establishing firm roots as two-fold—to provide stability

As a child grows in size and in strength, so does the parent in wisdom and in empathy

and nourishment. But how does one create a stable and nurturing home environment? The site, authored by parenting experts Pat and Larry Downing, offers the following tips.

- Create an atmosphere that is loving and welcoming, as if feels good to be home.
- Establish clear expectations and reasonable consequences.
- Treat them like valued members of the family.
- Encourage their creativity.
- Respect their ideas, even if you don't agree with them.
- Have fun together.

When we are able to make our children feel safe and secure in their own homes, we can be assured that they will be able to tackle the day-to-day challenges as school beauty and with more confidence.

However, it's not enough to give them just the roots. Children cannot remain home or children forever (though I know of some 20-year-olds who believe like preschoolers, but that's another story) and as we need to make sure that their wings are sturdy enough to take flight when the time comes.

Giving wings

The Downings offer the following tips to help us give our children wings:

- Give them responsibilities early, increasing with time.
- Help them develop values by your examples and by setting definite limits.
- Give them choices early and increasingly as they are able to handle them.
- Give them permission to express and make mistakes and experience the results of those choices—not as punishment, but as a way to learn what works and what doesn't.
- Help them find their gifts—find what they love—so they will have passion for life and a sense of purpose.

Okay. I can hear your anxious thoughts because I have the same ones, too. "What if the wings are too wonky that they may never learn to

come back?"

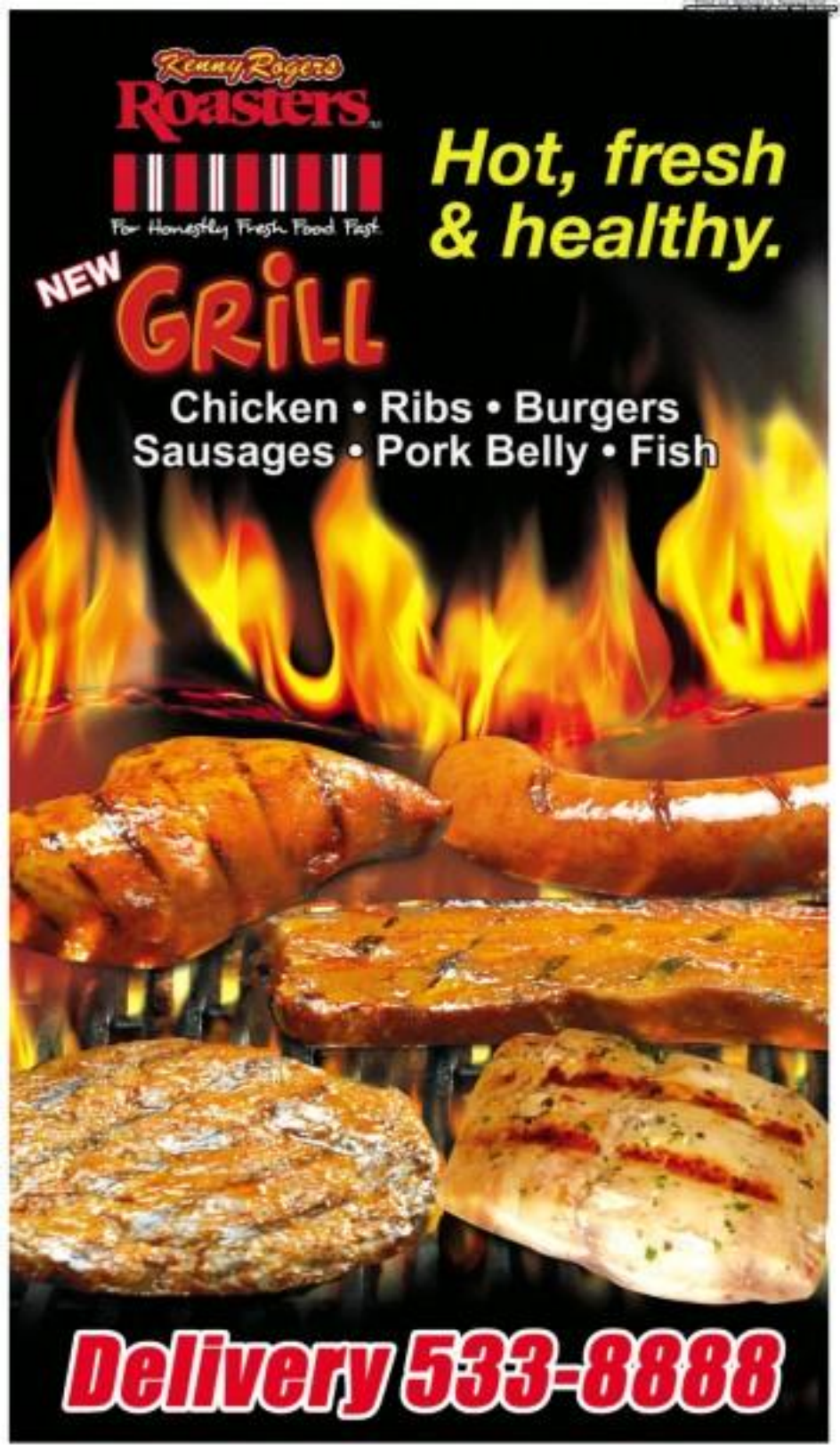
The Downings say that if the roots are strong enough, the child will always fly back to us—not to stay but to share with us the wonderful things and experiences that they are discovering for themselves. And this is a sight we see time and again among countless Filipino families who hold tenderly and get together, among their adult children who have left the family home, or those who have left for jobs and studies overseas and yet keep in touch constantly through e-mail and phone calls.

The whole concept of Roots and Wings also takes inspiration from the Bible where in Proverbs 22:6 it is written, "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it."

I like what Dr. William Sears, a pediatrician and father of eight children, says: "The key to compassionate, successful Christian parenting is simply to discover your tools and use them according to the plan that God has for you and your child. This may be a different plan than your neighbor's or anyone else's in your church. That's fine. Just trust in the success of your own and know that within you He has put the tools to become an expert on your child."

As a child grows in size and strength, so does his or her parent in wisdom and in empathy. Parenting, after all, is both a never-ending process and a one-way, to-our-children process, or so we.

E-mail the author at cathyguballa@gmail.com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Milestones

We welcome announcements of wedding and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and given marginal along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, PO. Box 12015 Makati Central Post Office 1265 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. Author of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space available and at no cost to the senders.

SIA-JIMCON

Peter Sia, son of Antonio and Li Sia, will wed **Jeanne Jimcon**, daughter of Theresie and Mary Ann Jimcon, on May 6 at the San Agustin Church in Intramuros, Manila. Reception will follow at Golden Dynasty Seafoods Restaurant in FM Roxas Avenue, Manila.

The bride will wear an off-shoulder gown in ivory white Swiss guipur silk by Bailey Gutierrez. The dress has a satin-lined hem and a cape embellished with leaves of Japanese sea grass and Swarovski crystals.

DE LEON-INSTRIANA

Engineer Edgardo de Leon Jr., son of Edgardo Sr. and Luisa de Leon, will wed **Anne Lisa Instriana**, daughter of Danilo and Isabelita Instriana, on May 5 at Sto. Niño Parish, Bacoor, Cavite. Wanda Reyes of Batsang, Bulacan, is the event coordinator.

DE SAGUN-BRUSELAS

Engineer **Arnold del Mundo de Sagun** of San Pedro, Laguna, and **Maria Luisa Aquino Bruselas** of Santa Rosa, Laguna, will marry on June 16 at Our Lourdes Shrine of Antipolo (Our Holy Rosary Parish) in San Pedro, Laguna. Reception will follow at Made's Restaurant in Biñan, Laguna. The bridegroom is the son of Cesar de Sagun and Pamelita del Mundo of Batangas. The bride is the daughter of Concepcion Aquino of Santa Rosa, Laguna, and the late Rolando Bruselas.

OLAN-DE LA PAZ

Stan Olan, son of Jacinto and Eva Olan, will wed Leyllane de la Paz, daughter of Modesto de la Paz and Arsita Lee (both deceased), on May 12 at the Plaza Rizalina, Timog Avenue, QC. Reception will follow at the Margarita and Sebastian Salles of The Plaza Suites.

The bride will wear an off-white sequin gown made of beige guipur satin designed by Rino Santos.

NAVARRO-MARIANO

Rodney James Navarro, son of Rodrigo and Eva Navarro, will wed Ginary Ilustre Mariano, daughter of Bernardo and Verona Mariano, today (April 29) at San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception will follow at Barbara's Plaza Sur. Luis Consigna, Intramuros, Manila. Edward Tong designed the bridal gown.

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A book on the 'forgotten bishop'

AS A THEOLOGY STUDENT IN THE Immaculate Conception Major Seminary in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, Fr. Esteban Antas discovered the story of the late Bishop Alfredo Verzosa, a key personality in the Lipa apparitions in 1948.

Bishop Verzosa was in Lipa when the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to postulant Teresita Castillo at the Carmelite monastery garden. Bishop Alfredo Obviar was confidential.

The cause for the beatification of Bishop Obviar has been submitted to the Vatican. Fr. Antas took Bishop Verzosa, the first Ilocano Catholic bishop who died in utter poverty in 1954 in Vigan, had been forgotten.

Fr. Esteban, who was ordained last year by Ilocos Sagrado Archbishop Ernesto Salgado, has put his research into a book to be launched June 27, the bishop's death anniversary.

Helping him in the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart, founded by Bishop Verzosa in 1933.

Vigan's son

Alfredo Verzosa y Florentin was born in Vigan in 1877 to Alejandro Verzosa and Micaela Florentin. He was ordained in 1904 by Bishop Dionisio Dougherty of Nueva Segovia.

He started at the cathedral in Vigan, then moved to Badoc and Bantay. In 1916 at 39 years old, he became the second bishop of Lipa. He became bishop in 1917.

Fr. Antas, parochial vicar of the Diocese of Lipa, discovered that Bishop Verzosa, like Bishop Obviar, believed in the Lipa apparitions.

After the bishops left Lipa, Bishop Rufino Sancio became apostolic administrator. In 1951, a six-bishop commission declared the Lipa apparitions a hoax. But pilgrims have continued to visit the Virgin Mediatrix of All Graces until now.

Two miracles reportedly occurred through the intercession of Bishop Verzosa but the cases had not official. is announced then.

The miracle of Lipa has yet to be approved.

Reunion

Stephenes and nieces of Undro Abraham from Bataan, South Cotabato are his children in Tagaytay on April 3, 1999, some 42 years after his death.

In a previous column on St. Charbel, I mentioned that the Abraham family in Tagaytay are related to the same, whose mother, Brigida, was the sister of Hanna mother of Ramon Abraham Fakhl who became Pedro Abraham when he settled in Tagaytay and married Josefina Reyes.

"Antonia" in Arabic means "Fiery" St. Charbel is a Maronite Catholic monk born in Lebanon.

Archbishop Donallo Tittarelli, inside the reunion possible. When in visited Lebanon in January 1999, he brought handwritten letters sent to the Abrahams by the Fakhi when Don Pedro died in 1957. He gave the letters to Ilmo Consul Dionisio Castro who looked for the senders of these letters in Beirut.

THE LATE Bishop Alfredo Verzosa who was bishop of Lipa during the Lipa apparitions in 1948

Consul Castro called to some 200 people surnamed Fakhl asking if they knew Bishop Verzosa. In February 1999, Mr. Jad Fakhl told he knew Bishop Verzosa. Mr. Jad was the son of Antonio, a nephew of Bishop Verzosa who also lived in Tagaytay.

Selma Abraham Heiange, Pedro's daughter, received a call from Mr. Jad for the first time in March 1999. On his second call, Mr. Jad said he was coming to the Philippines.

Edris Samuel Serbhie met Mr. Jad at the airport. John immediately recognized Mr. Jad because he looked like him. Edris brought Mr. Jad to Tagaytay where Archbishop Talamayan celebrated a Thanksgiving Mass.

Samira and her son Adnan visited Lebanon in 2000 and were met in Beirut by Consul Castro, Mr. Jad and other relatives. Mr. Jad brought them to Bechari where St. Charbel grew up. Those who wish to have catechists of St. Charbel can write to me c/o the Inquirer.

Fiesta

Devotees of Our Lady of Fatima (Ina, patroness of Nasa, Macabebe, Pampanga) celebrate their fiesta on May 13 at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral. Bishop Reynaldo Evangelista will officiate in the concelebrated Mass on May 16.

Marian devotees will gather at the Holy Family Parish, Mother Teresa St., Roxas District, Quezon City, for a Triduum of Masses on May 8, 10 at 6:30 p.m., celebrated by Fr. Jose Ignacio, parish priest.

In charge of the Novena is the Our Lady of Fatima Area Foundation led by Alfonso Bulan, Carlos Santos, Rosemarie Limbo, and Dr. Rosalyn Mendoza, and assisted by Ashet Ruiz, Ofel Ty, Norma Pena and Anna Ty.

St. Joseph

Archbishop Leonardo Yeom Medrano will lead in the celebration of the feast day of St. Joseph the Worker May 1 at the St. Joseph Cathedral in Tagbilaran, Bohol. Msgr. Crispin Barjano is parish priest.

Flores de Mayo

The Congregacion del Santisimo Nombre de Dios-Jesus, in cooperation with the City of Ormoc, Department of Tourism and the Intramuros Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), will hold the annual "Flores de Mayo" on May 6 at 3 p.m., from the Ralph Inday-mun Park to Intramuros. Sagrias will wear gowns by the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines. Ralph sponsor a Dinilawa.

Fiesta

Agua Mayor (Aguay-Aguay) will lead devotees in the floral procession of Our Lady of Charity May 1. Organizing committee composed of Al-Linda Dandolino, Conie Tolentino and Angelito Boado, is working with Intramuros parish priest Fr. Rene Luciano.

Fr. Jesse Melli, provincial superior of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers, will mark his 25th anniversary as priest May 1. Bishop Soll'ento Bacolod will give the homily at the 4 p.m. mass at Sta. Cruz Church.

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• 38 years old •

• 38 years old •
without UV care

7 facts, you should know

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- Loosening of the skin texture
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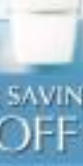

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

THE FLOWER barrio in Tagaytay City holds its Festival of Fun, an open market, May 5 & 6.

Grand flower bazaar

FOR A RELAXING morning weekend away from the hustle and bustle of the city, head on The Flower Farm at Barangay Guinhawa in Tagaytay City. With seven hectares of land and 1.6 greenhouses filled with a plethora of flora and fauna, The Flower Farm opens its gates for Festival of Fun on May 5 & 6.

Situated in cooler outdoor with Dolores's Cafe, the bazaar presents various stalls unique personal and gift items, a wide variety of plants, flowers and fresh, organically grown produce from Tagaytay farmers and food concessionaires. Visitors are guaranteed a grand time browsing and choosing from the available array of fern, bulga, herb succulents, the plant nursery is accessories, seeds and even plants that can help improve the positive energy or chi in one's home.

The open market will also feature pottery demonstrations and flower arranging lessons as well as picnic, face painting, and other fun activities for young participants. Entrance fee is P99.

Visit www.the flowerfarm.com.ph for directions or call (046) 413-0001 or 0917-8134447.

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About 1 Esplanade

Discover the grandeur of having the magnificent Manila Bay as your backdrop when you celebrate milestones at 1 Esplanade.

Well situated at the SM Central Business Park, 1 Esplanade provides easy access from anywhere in the city. Its nearby parking spaces and superior customer service makes any occasion go beyond expectations.

1 Esplanade is not just an ideal place to celebrate memorable occasions such as weddings, debuts and graduation, but also a perfect venue for business affairs, trade fairs, art shows, press briefings, even holding big political conventions and business conferences. Its uniquely modern architectural design and air-conditioned facilities boast of a space which can comfortably accommodate up to a thousand people. Moreover, separate functions can be held simultaneously with ease because of its state-of-the-art interior and banquet facilities.

A combination of elegance and accessibility, 1 Esplanade makes any occasion a moment to last.

For inquiries and reservation please call at 618-5092.

SPEEDO Philippines head Monish Mahtani with wife Ava

BIKRAM yogi Tristan Dina and Astrid yogi Bebs Lipat

HIS Hellenic Int'l Christian Academy with core believer Leira Carpo

BRILLIANT business minds Henry Ty and Marni Rufino Pinoy

ADL family Rexanna Ronaldson, Chandra and Babs Hubbard, chapter coordinator Maimaris Dungaci and husband Mike

Wired to the cosmos—and shopping

THROUGH A SEA OF COLORful saris and flowers, I eagerly walked toward a courageous-looking Indian swami. His compelling eyes was so strong that I was tongue-tied when he asked me, "Are you happy?" I was perplexed and didn't have an answer.

TESSA! Tessa Prieto-Valdes

Such was my initial encounter with world-renowned spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of the Art of Living Foundation. Yet more enlightenment brought powerful energies into the room.

My eyes wired, bubbly nature was silenced by his exuberant aura. Two after years of belonging and following Yoga, I still have not learned full and deep meditation, despite the best efforts of yogis like Tristan Dina, Bebs Lipat and Pye Tanjangco. It's difficult to meditate when your brain is simultaneously thinking of kids, shopping, parties and the other tribulations of life.

Yoga has aided me drastically although it has not cured my shopping virus. In fact, my yoga gear ranges from Nike Park to Gift Gate. So, there is a Bahia Kitty yoga mat I had at the Shangri-la Plaza Mall, there are yoga bags from Urban Spa and other outlets.

To help calm the spirit and tone the body, Yoga Manila has quite a number of various yoga practices including classes for expectant mothers and children. This May, guest yogi Ramesh Alef is conducting Ashtanga and Iyengar classes (e-mail yogamanila@ gmail.com).

The Art of Living (www.artofliving.org.ph) integrates many yoga practices. It is a non-profit, educational, charitable and humanitarian organization whose mission is to eradicate violence free global families. The Philippine Chapter opened in 2000 and has been dedicated to the lives of Filipinos and to the rewarding and enlightenment programs. E-mail the chapter at info@artofliving.org.ph for classes and seminars.

Swami, as yogi Shankar is fondly called, has brought to the masses self-development methods and programs to effortlessly connect body and mind and thereby tone and weaken the negative emotions and selfless service have inspired millions worldwide.

At his recent, very successful, three-day Health & Happiness Workshop at the Nike Shangri-la Ballroom, I experienced many of these and gotten up on yoga mats and pushing them through breathing exercises, healing and meditation. The special pre-workshop evening I attended focused on happiness with a bit of healing and an intense meditation.

Ugly beauty search

His discussions during the meditation "Inner peace leads" made me think of the 80s Ugly Duckling movie starring a very homely Hilary Swank. I guess this beauty contest business is another way of honoring one's body, by making it so beautiful as one wants to. Three lucky ladies will get to honor their bodies, thanks to sponsors such as Hanes and Inecom.

If Swami has elevated the Art of Living and Beverly Hills the Art of the Body, then Nike+iPod has perfected the Art of Running. Two iconic global brands, Nike and Apple, have brought the worlds of sports and music together with an innovative, wireless system that channels the runner's personally-selected music and real-time audio feedback to the runner. To top it all off, Nike+iPod uses extra-large sized colours burned at the end of the USB.

Apple evangelist Elbert Cuenca explained this awesome technology is possible via a proprietary wireless network, similar to Bluetooth. A tiny sensor is properly placed under the sole cushion of the Nike+iPod, which then wirelessly transmits to an iPod Nano. So the runner starts his run, all he has to do is press a button and the system is activated. More details for the techno-savvy can be found at www.nike.com.ph.

The runner's movements, speed, pulse rate and an audible feedback provides information on distance covered, halfway point, last few minutes, etc. There is also choice between a male or female voice, as I chose (for inspiring, male, drill-sergeant tone).

A "fitness" test can also be selected as one's muscle tone runs—to be placed when one "hits the wall" and is tempted to quit. At this critical moment, what song would I choose to lift my spirits and boost my energy? Probably something disco cliche! Such a fitness test!

At least, I didn't have to play a "Fitness Song" when I joined the Nike+iPod fun run at Nike Park, Bonifacio High Street, as it was only a 5K distance. Joining the fun run was triathlete runner Joy Rojas. She has run around the Philippines to promote sports and exercise, and this event was a simple warm-up for her. Nike Philippines' marketing manager Wellness Cruzillo and I ran at a relaxed pace but we made sure to finish ahead of the youngest participants, all of five years young!

The 5K run-course, I thought to be 5K might be comparable to a walk around the SM Mall of Asia. But then again, I wondered whether the mall might actually be a longer walk.

I decided the best way to answer this would be to ask Benny by himself, guru of the GR Group of Companies. As luck would have it, I recently had the occasion to have dinner with this great man and his children Frank, Elizabeth, Herbert and Marie, together with my mother, Inocencia (host Marian Prieto and her siblings. Even more coincidentally, dinner was at the new Highlands Steakhouse at the GR Mall of Asia.

Benny explained that my grandfather, Mariano A. Rufino, had given few dad his first big break by renting him space in a building in Quiapo that became the first Shoe Mart. My wife and also Mr. Ty's wedding sponsors. In the circumference of life that defines our culture, Mr. Ty returned the favor by being one of my wedding sponsors.

Many decades and countless malls later, Mr. Ty now resides the same street (now) that I now consider Benny's office (Shoe Mart) and I went to ask the the same question now—"Are you happy?"—I would know exactly how to answer.

Now! Because now I know that a run around the GR Mall of Asia is longer than a 5K run!

E-mail the author at tessa@mail.com.ph

SYMPATHIZING everybody got together: Tessa Ty-Cason, Shelly Ty, Pye Tanjangco, Henry Ty, Marie Prieto and Becky Ty. Standing: Cary Rufino, Herbert Ty, Charlie Rufino, Hans Ty, Sea Princess, Paolo Prieto, Carol Ty, Sandy Bermudez and Dennis Nakka

YOGA Manila guest yoga guru Seven Alef (center) with Becky de Villa, Marivoni Tantuaco, Marlou Elizalde and Liana Ramada

FAMILY Hands: Shelly Ty, Pye Tanjangco, Tessa Ty-Cason and Cary Rufino

THUMBING for the 6M Marathon inside Nike Park with the new Nike+iPod kit

ART of Living ladies Ana Calderon-Mahtani, Kara Tuason, Gioia Calderon and Aida Ashdown

HELLO Kitty for yoga and fitness apparel at Gift Gate

DIAMEX for running: Ria Valbuena, Apple iPod PR Leah Cartagal, Elbert Cuenca and Sea Princess

NIKE Park fitness gear at Bonifacio High Street at The Fort

CROSS-COUNTRY marathon runner Joy Rojas at the starting line of the Nike+iPod fun run

NIKE+IPOD duo Melissa Cruzillo and Jerwin Ngo

BIKRAM yogi Pye Tanjangco at her hot yoga class

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100th birthday

Rosalia Lobrador Lorena of San Narciso, Zambales, and wife of the late Dhogracio E. Lorena, celebrates her 100th birthday on May 17. Her children Felicitas, Renee, Ludgarda, Dhogracio Jr., Rosario and Alberto, together with their children and grandchildren, will have a party for her in Cincinnati, Ohio, US. Friends and relatives who want to greet her may contact 81+513-451-7755 or at 5150 Old Oak Trail, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA 45238.

Award for social justice work

DR. HANS KOECHLER, president of the Vienna-based International Progress Organization, a nongovernment organization in consultative status with the United Nations, visited Roanoke City, VA, to confer the Golden Honorary Medal on Dr. Fatimah Romadlon C. Balbin, former University of the Philippines professor and law practitioner, now a resident of Roanoke. The ceremony was recently held at the Roanoke Hotel, attended by Balbin's close friends and relatives.

The award was in recognition of her "lifelong efforts in the field of social justice, encompassing the rights of indigenous peoples in the Philippines, of the just struggle of the Moro people of Mindanao, and her active and courageous contribution to the causes of national self-determination and peaceful coexistence among nations worldwide."

LAWYER Fatimah Romadlon Balbin and Dr. Hans Koechler, president of the Vienna-based International Progress Organization

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Can't forgive her boyfriend

DEAR EMILY,

I am pregnant and unmarried. My boyfriend and father of my unborn child is based in the United States.

We got me pregnant when he came to visit last year. I immediately told him about it and he was so shocked as I was.

He asked me to have my pregnancy terminated, but I said no. I got mad at him because I could not believe he would suggest something like that!

We did not talk for weeks. Then, I called him up and explained to him my reasons for wanting to have the baby. He said he loved me very much and that I should not worry as I would have his support no matter what happened.

All is going well with our relationship. Right now, we are both very happy and excited and he will be with me during the birth of our baby.

But I cannot forget his initial reaction to my pregnancy. Though I have not told him, deep inside it still pains me that he wanted it terminated.

What must I do to forget this issue? I want to move on.

NEWMOTHER

You were having sex a la Russian roulette and you were shocked that you got pregnant? Unless you were just doing it for free with absolutely no strings attached, that reaction would be unusable.

Still, you should have brought all the tools and the guns you'd need — for any eventuality.

Now you say you cannot move on because he basically wanted you to have an abortion and your heart is often — embedded in the deepest recesses of you mind? C'mon!

Go inside his shoes for a minute. He flew all the way here to have a good time with you ... and you freak out! You know you would be having sex with him and you gave him the R&R [rest and relaxation] of his life.

Would he have enjoyed as much as he did had the word B-A-B-Y flashed subliminally in his mind?

And you, did you plan on having a child overnight (sorry, er wait this pregnancy a real "Oh-my-God-I-can't-believe-it" accident?

If it was, why were you not on the pill or find a condom at hand? But, if this pregnancy was to have him tres man-lage then, what you did was fool.

You should have been honest with him and told him that you were not taking precautions and/or wanted to get pregnant. You sailed him, girl, pure and simple.

The fact that this unborn baby is now making him happy after the smoke has cleared should be enough to warrant forgiveness.

Your pregnancy shocked him. He got over it and now he is even willing to be by your side at the baby's birth.

Enough said already. Do not make a song and dance about it anymore. Stop looking at the past. You might trip, tumble down and find yourself falling flat on you face if you get sac.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to inquirer Lifestyle at 5th Marcelo co-host the program "Buhay Kalusugan," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dzRH 166.3 FM.

Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Easy miles via dotcom

By Cy Arce A. Jamboo
Photos by Ryan Lim

Philippine Airlines has relaunched its website to give its loyal clientele more control over their accounts

YOUR MILES, AND so much more, at the mere touch of your fingertips. Instant access to your account, plus features that allow you to print out your miles e-statement, redeem miles, get the latest news and promotions. And, finally, claim upcoming miles online without going through the hassle of waiting in line and personally carrying all required documents.

As travelers become increasingly tech-savvy, the country's national flag carrier, Philippine Airlines, has relaunched its website to give its loyal clientele more control over their accounts.

The website, www.mabuhaymiles.com, now features several interactive menus to make browsing for accounting, flight booking the website, in fact, is user-friendly. That even includes typically challenged individuals out using

THE EXTRA MILE: Babie Aragon, PAL AVP for product in Pinky Cruz, PAL VP for marketing support, and Pia Domingo, PAL program development and communications manager, show off their smiles and IDs

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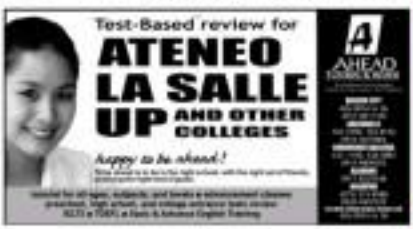

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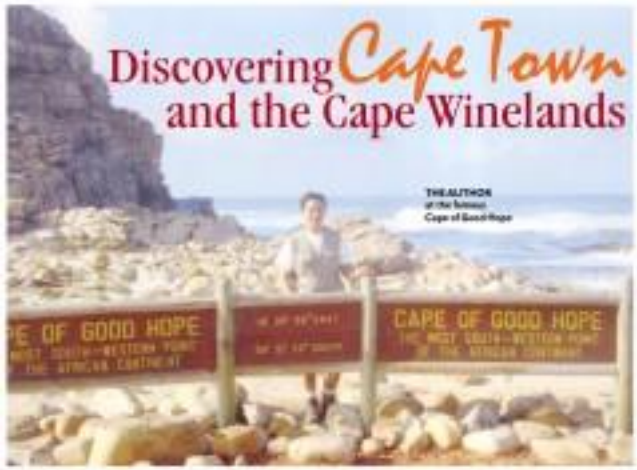
Discovering Cape Town and the Cape Winelands



THE AUTHOR at the famous Cape of Good Hope

WINE tasting

GETTING briefed on how wine is made

By Buddy Cunanan
Contributor

AFRICA IS AN ENIGMA. NO other continent comes even close to it in terms of scale, diversity or sheer impact.

With its myriad problems, natural beauty and richness, Africa is challenging and vibrant, backward yet real, endlessly frustrating but rewarding beyond words.

My first encounter with Africa was over five years ago, when I arrived in Cape Town, South Africa. Since then, I've made the city my second home and have grown to love the land, the people and the culture.

South Africa is a dynamic country. There's no room for boredom in this multicultural land which Archbishop Desmond Tutu aptly christened "the Rainbow Nation" for its racial and cultural diversity. Amazingly, apartheid is still fresh in people's minds but there is little apparent bitterness, and visitors to South Africa will be surprised at how lively blacks and whites mix in public places.

The only apartheid now is that between the haves and have-nots, as with anywhere else in the world.

Cape Town is most accessible from Manila via flights from Hong Kong or Singapore. Alternatively, you can travel to Cape Town via the Middle East. In the old days, applying for a visa was a pain as we needed to send our passports to the South African High Commission in Kuala Lumpur. Fortunately, the South African Embassy opened in Makati two years ago.

Public safety and security in South Africa has improved in the last few years. However, crime is still a reality that visitors to the country must face. It shouldn't be too much of a problem if one joins an organized tour, but for independent intrepid travelers, the best way to avoid becoming a crime victim in South Africa is to be street smart, constantly aware of surroundings and knowledgeable about the areas to avoid.

The same rules apply whether walking in Cape Town or Quiapo... no fancy jewelry, cell phones or expensive cameras. All that being said, people shouldn't let fear or paranoia stop them from enjoying the city!

WINERY owner shows how wine is stored for aging

South Africa is a dynamic country. There's no room for boredom in this multicultural land which Archbishop Desmond Tutu aptly christened 'the Rainbow Nation'

Distinctly European

Cape Town is probably one of the most beautiful cities in the world. Relaxed and genteel, the city has a distinctly European aura with its open air cafés and markets just legends with Victorian-era architecture and British colonial traditions.

The view is dominated by the majestic and flat-topped Table Mountain with its towering precipices, mountain walks, vineyards and beaches. Cape Town is the capital of the Western Cape and the parliamentary capital of South Africa.

The city has something for everyone, and its major attractions are just short distances away from each other. It is host to some of the most lively and charming restaurants and clubs in the world. The scenery is strikingly beautiful. A short drive away from the city center lie pristine beaches and craggy cliffs dotted with million-dollar homes ...a setting that could easily rival the French Riviera.

The first OFWs

Further along the Cape Peninsula are the charming seaside towns of the southern suburbs. Interestingly, Saldanha Bay, one of the quietest and most beautiful towns in the area, was founded by Filipino seamen who jumped ship in Cape Town in the late 19th century. It's even possible to bump into some of the descendants of these first Filipino overseas Filipino workers, who still have family names like Perez, Cabrerajan and Bautista.

At the end of the Cape Peninsula lies the Cape of Good Hope, an iconic name given the treacherous and perilous waters that have claimed the lives of many sailors.

Wine lover's paradise

South Africa has a rich wine making tradition, and located near Cape Town are the historic towns of the Cape Winelands. Founded in 1685, Stellenbosch is the second oldest town in South Africa and comes straight out of a storybook with its beautifully restored Cape Dutch buildings and magnificent oak-lined streets.

It's also the home of the University of Stellenbosch, one of South Africa's most prestigious academic institutions.

The other jewel of the Cape Winelands is Franschhoek, the original home of the Cape's French Huguenots, whose descendants have made a conscious effort to preserve their Gallic heritage. One of the most famous descendants of this town is actress Charlize Theron.

Franschhoek is now recognized as the culinary capital of South Africa and one of its top hotel restaurants is Le Quartier Français, named as the best hotel in the world in 2005 by the United Kingdom's Tatler magazine and one of the Top 50 restaurants in the world by the UK's Restaurant Magazine.

Its true is the Cape Winelands is complete without a wine-tasting tour to one of its many wineries. Stellenbosch alone has more than 140! Each of the wine-producing areas has its own wine route where wineries throw open their wineries to the public. They maintain tasting rooms where one can sample their vintages either gratis or for a small fee, usually about US$5.

There is no pressure to buy and one only has to enjoy the fine wines and the charming South African hospitality of the winery's staff who will gladly answer any questions.

The key to a successful wine tasting is not to hurry. Save the time over lunch in the shady restaurant a centuries-old wine estate, enjoy an afternoon nap under a spreading oak, or just sit and drink while admiring the breathtaking vistas.

It's all part of the Cape Winelands experience!

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From page F1

account at My Account format (input the nine-digit member ID and password), go to My Account menu, click Claim Missing Miles and complete the online request form.

Want to know how to earn miles without having to actually board a plane? And reason over hunting Miles and list the Asia Flight format. In a flash you'll get a list of PAL's program partners in telecommunications, banking services, travel insurance, hotels and resorts, credit cards, car rentals, entertainment, and so much more.

The website now also has miles redemption options, with interactive seat-and redemption calculators so clients would know how many more miles they need to complete that dream vacation, or exactly how far their earned miles could take them.

Not yet a member? Enroll online and become a member in an instant. With an immediate assignment of a permanent membership ID number, you can print out a temporary card and you're good to go. Fill out the Lifestyle Survey for a personalized experience. You may also register to get online access to your account, define a password, and activate usage of change your Travel Coordinator details.

Once registered, members have real-time access anywhere and anytime to their account information through the Mabuhay Miles e-statement. A regular newsletter called Mabuhay Miles e-Connections via e-mail will be sent out to members.

Through several technical enhancements that include many interactive features and increased online security, the Mabuhay Miles website makes browsing a rewarding experience for members.

ENHANCED EXPERIENCE. The refurbished website now has an array of useful interactive features.

Proteksyong dalot ng Nucleotides, para ang bata mas may laban.

Now, Bonakid has Nucleotides!

As a parent, you want to protect your child from harm. However, you cannot be with him all the time. To help him build his own wall of defense, make sure he gets enough nutrition to help him ward off bacteria. A known nutrient is Nucleotide.

Every child will need all the Nucleotides he can get, especially when he turns one year old. This is the stage when he will naturally want to explore and to discover new things. He will run around, grab things and put them into his mouth with no hesitation. He will do things that will expose him to harmful germs and viruses.

Nucleotides will help boost a child's immune system.* They increase the natural killer cell activity, helping make him more resistant to infection.**

According to Nutritionist & Dietitian Prof. Iris Bernardo, the Filipino child, in particular, stands to gain much if he receives enough Nucleotides. This is because pollution and overpopulation in most places present a tough environment for him. Nucleotides will help so that he won't get sick easily.

Nucleotides are also known as the building blocks of DNA and RNA, helping regulate and repair cells in the body. They have beneficial effects on the growth and development of the small intestinal lining, the metabolism of fat and the functioning of the liver.*

Because your one-year-old is growing so fast, he is producing many new cells and, therefore, he has a strong need for Nucleotides. Children can benefit from additional sources like legumes, organ meats, fish and poultry, as well as milk formulas such as Bonakid, fortified with the most number of Nucleotides.*

For years, Bonakid has contained Energy-Giving Nutrients to help keep your child healthy and strong. Now, it is made better with 6 important Nucleotides that may help maintain and optimize immune function. Nucleotides also help against diarrhea and aids in iron absorption.

So when your child turns one, give him Bonakid.

Prepare your child to face life's greatest challenges. Help enhance his body's natural defense through Nucleotides found in the new Bonakid!

*among 9 out of 10 growing up with WHO

For questions and inquiries, please call Wyeth Careline at 87 Wyeth (94084).

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Travel Briefs

Country inn

Tucked common at Casa San Pablo, a country inn in San Pablo, Laguna. It sometimes the World charm and modern fittings. The inn is surrounded by pine trees. Casa San Pablo has cottages, bedrooms, meeting halls and a pool. It is suitable for weddings, honeymoons and any celebration. Located at Barangay San Rafael, Casa San Pablo is an hour and a half away from Makati. Overnight stay with three meals costs P1,000 per person. Standard standard rates, which guests and corporate discounts are also available (www.casasanpablo.com).

Pirate takeover

Pirates "stained" Hong Kong Disneyland's adventureland as temporary headquarters for Pirate Takeover. The event celebrates the upcoming release of "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End." The 4th movie in Disney's block-buster trilogy. It opens in Hong Kong May 24. With the pirates now headquartered at Adventureland, Pirate Takeover is ongoing May 4 - June 30. Park visitors guests to become themselves in a world of islanded, adventure and mystery. For a glimpse of some of the fun Sai Tai can be expected during Pirate Takeover, log on to hongkongdisneyland.com. The website also offers interactive pirate mischief games, pirate "treasures," and tips on how to be a pirate, among others.

Enjoying Guam in May

May is Tourism Month in Guam. The Guam Visitors Bureau promises an exciting array of events, including more athletic competitions starting with the 4th Annual Guam International Triple Crown Home Run Derby, the 17th Golf and Tournament of the GCAB Sprint Series will be held May 6. GCAN Includes running, trekking, mountain biking, cruise kayaking, snorkeling, rappelling and extreme kayaking. It will be held on May 26. Search Call area 48 outdoor Race 1 on May 27 (www.guamchimedahotmail.com).

Gondola Miracle will feature a remote-controlled car racing with the help and participation of the Guam Police Department (www.guamchimedahotmail.com).

On May 19, the 4th Annual Tumon Bay Guam Dance will be held. The event is sponsored by Greater Pacific Inquiries. Guam Hotels (www.guamchimedahotmail.com). The website also offers interactive pirate mischief games, pirate "treasures," and tips on how to be a pirate, among others.

HP recommends Windows Vista™ Home Premium.

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Mango Festival May 25-27. On May 27, Guam's other attractions include the 20th Annual Richard Cecil Crossing will be held.

Commonwealth cities and Philippine dailies have promo packages to Guam this summer (www.visitguam.org, Guam Visitors Bureau Philippine office, tel. 1211193 or 1264571).

Ilocos inn

Manuchay Inn and Restaurant of Km 365 north of Laoag City offers air-conditioned guest rooms with private lanterns for private transportation. Prepaid and local tours also available. Pay-as-you-go or stay. It also provides shuttle service to and from the beaches as well as tour service to Pagudpud and other Ilocos Norte landmarks and destinations. Standard rate room rates (days a week). P1 hours a day. It serves local delicacies. Its gift shop lets guests bring home Ilonggo delicacies, local textiles, dried vines and vintage wine. For guests' famous crusty broccoli, pinoy others (395 Barangay 2, Brgy. 2, 2500, e-mail to hello@manuchay.com, visit www.manuchay.com).

New Star airline

Ariana Airlines is the latest addition to the increasing group of 5 star airlines that include Cathay Pacific, Malaysia Airlines, Qatar Airways and Singapore Airlines. This was announced recently by Skytrax, which said Ariana was a new, economical, high-quality performance airline offering the service delivery desired by customers. Skytrax said Ariana is exclusive as it is the first and highest quality accolade and recognition an airline could gain. The challenge for this airline now is to maintain and develop the service quality that was being recognized.

Summer tours

INSIDERS' TOURS HAS LINED UP holiday packages to three popular destinations for the month of May.

A four-day tour of Boracay, famous for its swimming, mountain biking, jeepney, is set for May 17-20. It includes excursions to the magnificent Boracay resorts, the quaint Ilogan village of Sinagpan, the Mountain Province's capital, Bontoc, and the recently beautified town of Sagada. The tour includes time for shopping and visits to local museums and craftsmen.

Three-day tours to Bohol and Palawan are set for May 18-20. The Bohol tour covers the intriguing Chocolate Hills, Bohol man-made forest, Loboc river cruise and lantern souvenirs. Accommodation in Bohol is at Alona Kew White beach Resort in Panglao island.

The Palawan tour includes an adventure filled Twin trip down the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and visits to the wildlife center, Baker's Hill and Mitoni Ranch in Puerto Princesa. Accommodation is at the four-star Legend Inn.

Airfare and transfers in both Bohol and Palawan are included in the package (tel. 8405012 and 5726576).

STYLE

What do tourists like most about our country? No. 1 answer is always our hospitality. The beauty of nature is only second. It's really the people

DOT SECRETARY ACE DURANO

Mr. Tourism draws 'em in

PLAYTIME
By the staff

THE PHILIPPINES' TOURISM machine is now rated as the best-improved and performing in Asia, with visitor arrivals to the last three years having grown at an average 3.6 percent annually, higher than the growth rates of Asean countries and surpassing the 7 percent increase of tourist traffic in the Asia-Pacific, according to the United Nations World Tourism Organization.

Credit for the incredible performance of Philippine tourism marketing should go to the dynamic secretary of the Department of Tourism (DOT), Joseph 'Ace' Durano.

Since becoming DOT boss in 2004, the former Cebu congressman has rationalized the country's tourism drive, lavished well-heeled campaigns, and launched tourism caravans abroad that

MR. TOURISM G2

MOISSANITE
JEWELRY

We just focused on three countries—Japan, Korea and Mainland China—and that's where we got our growth

Mr. Tourism draws 'em in

From page G4

not only when the interest of foreign travelers to the Philippines, but also maximize it. It helps that Duncan is young and good looking, so that he himself embodies for the tourism markets the vibrancy and natural endowments of Philippine travel sites.

From 1.239 million arrivals in 2004, or basis for 1.65 million in 2005 and 2.04 million in 2006. Last year's arrivals have particularly surprising because of the natural calamities that afflicted the country and the negative travel advisories issued by the US, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the UK. Overall, the Arthur growth was reflected in tourist arrivals from Korea and China, so much so that Korean and Asian airlines have seen their load factor increased significantly. More flights are being planned by the airlines as well as by DIC, Cebu Pacific and Chinese airlines because of a surge in bookings.

But the DOT's incredible success comes with certain angst, such as the inadequate infrastructure to handle the new tourist influx in some of the Philippines. Duncan has foreseen this challenge and come up with the Central Philippines Infrastructure Projects, a comprehensive plan to make Cebu, Bohol, Boracay and the rest of the central Philippines as the premiere tourist destinations in the Pacific.

Did you really want the position of tourism secretary? Did you ask for it?

I didn't really know I wanted it until I thought about it after it was offered. In the end, the emotional reaction was, you know ... melee-mixedity, they were critical.

Because of your age, you're relative lack of experience?

Everything about me—a lawyer, a corporate executive, a politician—

Which has been more fulfilling, being a congressman or tourism secretary?

This has been more fulfilling. I mean, from things I've learned, you know, my experience in this I was able to do in the more than two years on the job.

What are the tangible results of your efforts in terms of percentages?

The most visible, of course, is the increase in foreign arrivals. We've gone as it already—Russia, for many, humanitarian, the areas that we've been targeting.

What are the most dramatic parts?

China. It was something we put, myself, I mean, my predecessors supported the office there, but we promoted the tourism program and we saw (arrivals) jump from 80,000 a year to over 180,000 a year.

Last year?

No, that was 2005.

Have you fulfilled last year's [tourist] arrivals?

Last year's arrival was 2.04 million[s] overall. From China it was about 175,000. Last year, we saw the volume increasing, but more creative ideas in terms of promotions. This year, all these rooms are back on line again, and there are 3,000 new rooms coming on line.

Did you purposely encourage expansion?

I think it is just [good] business, when there's demand, I mean. It's the genuine incentive to expand when there's demand.

Are there developments in the outcome? Here about new areas? Are we encouraging new destinations?

We really really are. It's now area for foreign tourists are discovering Davao City. We were really pushing Davao City. We launched it with the Asian Tourism Forum in 2006.

Where will the tourists going to Davao? The Chinese?

Davao, Chinese, Asian (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

What about the Russians, the Europeans, where are they going?

The Russians, they come three weeks at a time and they usually choose their beach destinations. They usually package Boracay, Cebu, Bohol and Palawan—three destinations at a time. See big groups but families. Parents with children or married couples but not big groups, like Koreans or the Chinese.

What about the Middle Easterners?

Not here, for the past two years, we've been getting a lot of input to have a tourism program over in the Middle East but not here. I remember a few don't offer enough halal food here. It's the biggest constraint that's why they go to Malaysia.

What about Hindurans?

Hindurans ... still really but the origin. So ... until we really resolve the Mindanao problem there ...

How about developing 'Inter-Asia'? There are nice beaches there.

Oh, yeah, I heard from my friends in the Navy that there are pink beaches there. Clearly, so far we developing our potential in tourism, I think we've only scraped our own. 10 percent of our potential.

But ... we're really maximized on existing capacity that's why we see all these expansions. The latest flurry of our labor are really the new investments, especially big business in the Philippines now investing in tourism as well.

Are there new hotels coming up?

Henry Sy[], of course, the Imperial Resort, the one in Cebu. The investors are Koreans. And, of course, Banyan Tree Resorts is [where] is coming in. The latest one is Kingdom Holdings. Banyan Tree is an Asian brand. It's based in Singapore.

Where are they expanding, in the Visayas?

Palawan.

So Mindanao any investments now?

Right now. It really follows that where your source market is, that's also [where] investors are from. For example, if Russia is our biggest source of tourists, the biggest source of tourist investments in Russia as well.

So Chinese investors are coming in?

There is one group that's also looking at Palawan.

Isn't that scary that the Chinese and Koreans are investing in our tourist attractions?

The attractions will remain in the country and they'll be employing Filipinos. They probably will put up a Philippine company to be able to own land.

What's the percentage of Secretary Gordon's projects that have been confirmed?

Secretary Gordon was really directed with the WOW Philippines campaign. We announced PHP60 Philippines to tourists where it made sense, like North America and Europe. But we also engaged in country-specific campaigns in Japan, Korea, China ... Although all the branding carries the same theme, which is to really make it more responsive to the 7,107 number islands, experience, attraction. How we communicate this is different, especially in the north Asian market, which is non-English speaking.

What are you doing about Boracay? It's an overbooked island ready to sink.

In the short term, the only thing we can do is really defend it from environmental abuse. Two months ago I visited it and while there is improvement [since] then. It's working really well. We're supporting the sewerage system. The sanitation, non-sink subsidies has been already implemented. This is to protect the beach. But the medium-term plan is real. It is a Comprehensive Master Plan [for] the development of Caticlan Island.

Where's the island?

The government.

And you certified? have local investors do that? The Ayalas, for example?

The Ayalas are looking at Bohol.

How about Henry Sy?

Henry Sy is in Batangas. The SM group has both Batangas and Manoc-Manoc. But, Boracay, the Gokongwei, they don't have a beach property yet. We really do need foreign capital.

How is that every is Caticlan island from Boracay?

Right across.

Ah, so white sand this.

Yeah, similar. But it's bigger than those ones.

So you also go via Caticlan?

Yes. [But] the integrated development plan of the group (includes an) air strip on the island. It's big enough. This July Week Boracay got 27,000 visitors as compared to only 16,000 last July Week. This year is (the one) 1,000 new rooms in Boracay (open).

Do you have a say on the standards of the rooms and the hotels being built?

It's basically market-driven. Our accreditation is more of standard-setting but it's not regulatory in the sense that, sure without our accreditation, they can still operate.

But you will give the nod, like a good housekeeping seal.

Yes, along with our classification.

What does it take to get accredited?

There's a set of criteria. We have inspectors, accreditation is done by the regional offices. They can appeal to the central office if they don't like the accreditation or the classification given to them. Usually the owners look for[her to see] to it first since the regional office only gives it a three-star or four-star (rating).

If they are a married couple and if they want privacy, it's either Palawan or one of the resorts in Cebu. But if they want to party—Boracay. If they want to shop, go to Manila. If they want to see the not-so-usual natural attractions, I ask them to go to Bohol. Another place that I like is Camiguin

Isn't that scheme open to bribery or corruption?

No, because actually the standards are very specific. For you to be rated five-star, you must have a pool, more than two restaurants in the hotel. Even if your rooms are planned with gold but you don't have basic that two restaurants, if you don't have a swimming pool, you can not be five-star. The qualifications are very specific. There's no room for discretion on our part.

What were the programs initiated by Senator Gordon in Intramuros that were discontinued?

In Intramuros, the major activity of Senator Gordon was the WOW flow of the Philippines, the regional fair in the Autodrill. Every year the subsidy there was P40 million and that requested the different provinces to come to Manila. So, an out-door with them. They were asking more for their participation. So I said, although (the exhibits) was good for local or domestic tourists, an activity for people in Manila would join, it was quite close one prior by was inviting more foreign tourists because our (goal) was to generate employment. It is only through foreign tourists. But we can maximize employment generation.

We used to think we could only allocate P40 million, we could not add to this. They said, if it's only P40 million, we could not afford to come to Manila every year. So what we did was to equitably distribute the P40 million to the different regions so they could have their own promotions.

While local governments were glad to come in Manila, they wanted people to go to them, not for them to come to Manila. They said, "Just give us the promotions money so we can maximize our own resources and invite people to come to our provinces instead of us spending to go to Manila." That's what happened.

They can now mount their own landmark-tourism trips. Now you see they have their own brochures, they have their own presentations.

What has happened to the 'intramuros'(sports complex) issue?

The case is now with the Presidential legal Counsel. Secretary Ivanna Bolero is a Presidential appointee. I cannot discipline her and I'm having a tug with DOJ.

What happened there? Mr. Ermita saying that it was approved by the board, all the infrastructure.

The documentary evidence says otherwise. I mean, that's his defense but documentary evidence shows that the Jr board, the previous board, it said, in the PTA board, what was approved was the 2006 budget where there was a P35 million item for the sports complex, but he knew as well that it's the policy of PTA, it's a board resolution time for that to be implemented, if it's a contract that's P1 million and above, it required prior approval of the board before being implemented, and there was no prior approval. And there's another board resolution that says all contracts entered into must be ratified within 30 days by the board from date of entry[] and if it's not ratified within 30 days, it's good as disapproved. So he here say, the contract that he entered into for the sports complex is P34 million and, in the letter to the budget, it was only P15 [million]. Plus he didn't get the approval of the board to implement, plus the fact that it specifically disapproved the [project].

How can that be undone? What possible consequences could there be for him?

Clearly it's criminal because it's really malversation of public funds, using public funds without authority.

But while the case is with DOJ[], the attractions is still being built?

We're given him already a course and choice ... The last report I got, they were still working. In fact, (it is) doing a parallel process in also enforce its own powers to demolish it even while (DOJ) is still hearing the case.

Are you concerned about losing tourists next year when the Olympics is staged in China?

I don't think so. You know, this is one industry where it is not a zero-sum game. One country getting more doesn't mean they have to take it from another country. Historical trends in Asia Pacific is growing the fastest. I think it's growing 7 percent per year. This is based on a World Tourism Organization report. The number is just so big and there's no one reason. On one can take that out. What's important to us is we get a piece of the pie that can support our industry. And unlike the industries of Thailand and Singapore, where for their tourism sector to be [that] they need 10 million tourists before they just break even, the capacity for us right now we're just going to reach 2.1 million this year and the occupancy rates of our hotels is already in the 70-80 percent range, and the load factors of our airlines at 75 percent.

So we're not going to support the industry so that they can continuously grow. We don't need the entire world to come to the Philippines for that to happen. Of the hundreds of millions of foreign tourists that come to Asia Pacific, we just need three million. So the pressure is not on us to support the industry although we have to be more cost-effective in our promotions because unlike the other big destinations—Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore—clearly they can't [do] what we're [doing] with the capacity. So we don't have to worry about losing tourists because our (goal) was to generate employment. It is only through foreign tourists. But we can maximize employment generation.

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Where they come from here mainly the tourists spend?

Ninety dollars per day. Just so that you have a feel, we get back every week's worth already. We always say that we disproportionately contribute to this government. We only get P900 million of government money a year and the revenue contribution of last year was US$2.8 billion. So that's more than a hundred billion pe-

So it our vision to make tourism our No. 1 industry?

Yes.

And where are we right now?

Well, in the medium-term, the target is 5 million foreign tourists by 2010. Short-term, it's doubling the size of the sectors. Where we started in 2004, we started with a foreign tourist arrival base of only 1.9 million.

Can the private sector catch up with 5 million tourists coming here by 2010?

You know, the way I frame the challenge for us now is in terms of growth of foreign tourist arrivals. We are only great now as fast as we can expand our capacity.

It's almost say that global events in the past few years have really opened up doors for us. With regime-control of terror going to the West, most people are now traveling short-haul. So regional travel opens up doors for us. Second, the economic expansion of low-cost carriers are also regional. Those have opened up opportunities for us, but it's not automatic that they will come to the Philippines.

You said earlier it's difficult to get the $60-time travelers to come to the Philippines. What are their primary concerns and how are you addressing them?

It's always awareness. In Japan in 2006, for example, I thought that everybody knew that Boracay knew that we were a tropical destination. But in our survey, less than 50 percent associated the Philippines as a tropical destination, and that's Japan. Same in Hong Kong. We had a higher awareness level in Germany as a tropical destination that in Hong Kong.

What were they thinking?

As far as Hong Kong and Japan are concerned, we were more for business travel than for leisure travel. So even ahead of the Japan campaign in early 2006, the awareness level of the Philippines as a tropical destination was less than 5%, but after the one-year campaign it went to 50 percent. If you just engage it and if you just focus, not all we results. In 2006, our promotion fund was only about US$3 million. We spent more than US$6 million of that in Japan. In 2006, we just focused on three countries—Japan, Korea and Mainland China—and that's where we got our growth, from those three countries.

What do tourists like most about our country?

The questions in the exit survey are always, what are you there? Have your stay? If it's good, why? The No. 1 answer is always are hospitality and people. The beauty of nature is only second. It's really the people.

How do you work with other government agencies? Is there a plan to turn tourism perhaps into a super agency?

Well, the Cabinet now is divided into clusters. There is an economic cluster where our department is now a part of, and there's the social cluster and others, many. Like, for example, the No. 1 problem we always get is immigration and customs. With DOF there in the economic cluster, it's easier to work with the department on such issues. DFWR is in the social cluster. We've had a very good budget of DFWR, we are now given a cap like "put some in this particular area to improve the road network there."

Where else was it he go to Manila, to tap the financial markets?

We stayed true. What we were satisfied with our programs in Japan, Korea and China, we know that for us to maximize [our] gross [in terms of] arrivals, we have to complement this with other markets. So we had to look for a market that complemented Japan, Korea and China in terms of seasonality. We found Australia, Russia, Germany.

How are we doing in Australia?

We're doing quite well. Our biggest problem there is lack of air seats, airlines.

Pero may PAL seatmate tayo.

Singapore Airlines, SIA, and Quantas [airlines]. They fly direct to Manila, but Korean go via.

Resources for the cruise ships, we're

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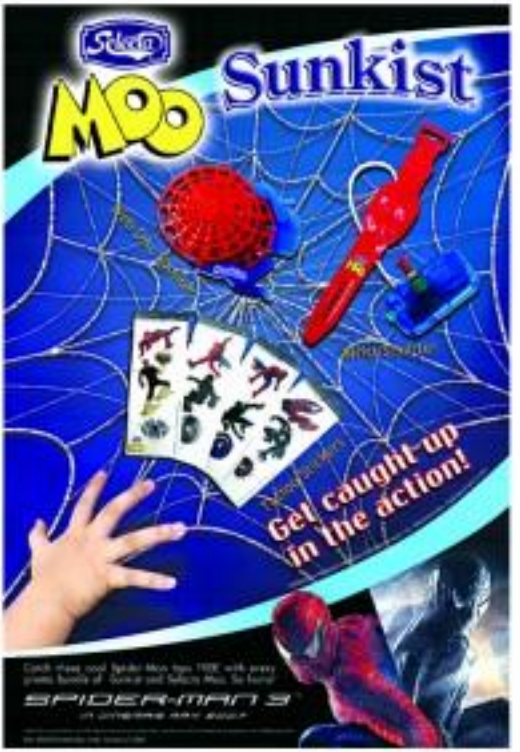
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On Labor Day, we're working
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Get up to 70% OFF on selected items
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Mr. Tourism draws 'em in

from page 64

noted a step?

Actually, in the past two years we've been carrying at least four to five retreats a year financially it's also lack of the excess facilities.

So we're not part of that Asean group promoting cruises?

We are, that's why we're getting more four to five cruises a year. The ports are Cebu Manila. These are usually the world cruise tours. Before heading to Hong Kong or Vietnam, they pass by the Philippines.

Do they have land tours in Manila and Cebu?

Yeah. Usually they stay overnight.

You had an equation before that for every foreign tourist there is an equivalent of... how many local tourists?

Yes it is one. One foreigner, 30 locals. In terms of forex [spending] it is a premium for that location ... a tourist tourist, for example, will spend 30 times more than a domestic tourist.

Is there an informal ranking among tourists? Who are the biggest spenders?

Yeah, per capita per day you will be surprised I think it's still the Japanese. But for the total budget spent, it's usually the Europeans because they stay the longest.

How much have you topped of medical tourists?

Actually, there are different levels of medical services. We're quite popular already for dentistry, optometry, also for cosmetic surgery. What we are promoting now with the big hospitals are the more sophisticated surgeries. And we're just starting with that. So far, in our five year of participation in the World Health Tourism Congress held in Germany in June, USD got a US$40-million contract from the government of Zimbabwe. Their citizens are covered by their health insurance.

Micronesia sent for just general checkup some to us. The health ministers of Micronesia, Guam and the other islands is so generous. They cover the transport expense of the patient plus one [other person] who will accompany them.

I had the association of hospitals in the office earlier that just arrived from Cyprus. We participated in the second World Health Tourism Congress. And of course they got very good business out of it. They were saying the No. 1 medical service that's higher-end. The others we never have in the Philippines.

What particular hospitals [participated]?

The ones that were there [were], St. Luke's Medical City, Asian Hospital, UST.

How about our airports? Please, it's getting old so.

[Spokesperson answers ... (Laughter)]

One spokesperson answer and another, the real [one]. (Laughter)

The most difficult problem has been handled already which is the legal problem. We've super-pinned it successfully. Now the remaining problem is physical, because the consultants said it needs some reinforcements. Now, that's an easier problem to handle. The budget has been allocated. They're working on it already. The President still wants Terminal Two open this year.

Actually, you know, in terms of adding capacity to Ninoy International Airport, it doesn't add much ... The problem with Ninoy International Airport is, well, the airport itself. There is no more room for expansion there. You only have one runway. That's your permanent limitation. So you really have a permanent ceiling as to the volume of traffic you can handle there.

Is Terminal 3 bigger?

Oh, yes. Just the immigration booth alone... [but area is bottleneck to both terminals because there's no space for additional lanes—but there will be 26 lanes in Terminal 3].

Do you find it difficult to work with travel agents [and] tour operators, who are a famously fractious lot, to get them to agree on certain points?

With travel agents, I have not encountered any problem with them. The biggest challenge for us is really to get the local government units to come on board, because there is much power in terms of developing or managing a destination. Boracay is a case in point. The national government has had the moratorium on new construction for the longest time. In fact, we now LGUs have been seated there. But the local government continues to issue building and business permits.

How do you reconcile that?

In this point we can only advocate because there's no violating anything. Again, they have the right to issue all those business and building permits.

And it's counter-productive.

That's really the issue; it's so difficult for a moratorium because issuance of permits for them is not regulatory, it's revenue.

Besides medical tourism, what else is there?

The 30s. I draw to the country is still really our beaches. But of course, since a tourist will stay here three days or more, you always have to package that with something else. So there's always a little of cuisine, a little of entertainment, of culture, shopping, but not 50s. I draw is really our beaches.

> I love Palawan. I've been from northern Palawan all the way down to Tabon Cave. You know, Palawan is just ... you feel like it's not part of the Philippines

So you intend to ever sell the country to a shopping destination? Malaysia's been trying to milk it by promoting their great sale, but shopping here is better. And our prices are so much lower.

In fact in Japan, in Australia, that's one of our major draw. India also. That's the reverse market that's been opened. They come here to do shopping. Because the products they're looking for and, of course, we're looking at the cosmopolitan Indians, el. That's why they love our shopping because it's also very diverse.

Personally, what's your favorite vacation spot? Where do you go?

Another spokesperson answer [laughs]. No, seriously, I love Palawan. I've been from northern Palawan all the way down to Tabon Cave. You know, Palawan is just ... you feel like it's not part of the Philippines. I've been to the area also, in San Vicente. They have a very nice bay there as well. Another nice place is Lake Sebu.

When you have foreign guests, where do you take them?

I always ask them, but if they are a married couple and if they want privacy, I take them to either Palawan or one of the resorts in Cebu. But if they want to party, Boracay. If they want to shop, go to Manila. If they want to see the [all-on-one] natural] attractions, I ask them to go to Bohol. Another place that I like is Camiguin. You feel like you're in one of the smaller islands of Hawaii. There's already a flight from Cebu to Camiguin.

What do you like to do on your vacation? If you were in Palawan, what would you do?

I like to visit the lagoons. And then in Palawan you don't need to scuba dive. Snorkeling alone I can't make you appreciate the underwater scenery.

How is it living away from your kids, from your family?

I keep on saying that I'm an OCW as well. [Laughter] But at least I get to see them.

What is it about this job that makes you say at the end of the day "It's worth living away from my wife and kids?" (Laughter)

You don't think about those things. You only think about it when it's asked of you, like right now. (Laughter) Well, I'm just fortunate that I feel that I have not missed my time. That we've been blessed that our efforts have really been allowed to bear fruit, and that makes it worthwhile. Probably it would have been a different story if, after years of working, nothing is happening, tourists are not coming. But now I can say it has been worth the effort.

I was just conditioned for this. You know, I'm a third-generation politician. I just grew up thinking that it's part of my identity. In fact, I keep recalling my wife, because when we just got married I was in law school and of course I was in school most of the time. I would tell her "Four more years and I'll be off years." And then after that I entered Congress. So now I've come to realize that, I have told her, "I need this to become whole, and unless I'm whole, I can't be a good husband or a good father. This is part of who I am."

But she must be used to it because she also comes from a political clan.

No, she's not. The kids are used to it, but Carmi, no. The kids would just say "you're home?" (Laughter) Or, if I have to leave, "where are you running back?"

How old are your kids?

Thirteen and 12. The 13-year old is a boy.

So he's starting to date now.

No! That's one thing he didn't get from me. (Laughter) He's still quite ... Of course it's not saying manner [because] I'm connected eh, but when he leaves his cell phone, I look at his text messages. (Laughter) He knows it around so I just took it it. No girls!

You said he did not take after you. You were dating at 13?

Twelve! I was dating and had my first girlfriend when I was 12.

But travel a lot. What's in your luggage? Who packs your things?

Two things. I endeavor my luggage, but not my books and my portable fax. (Laughter)

Can you do your own ironing?

No, I'm an expert at that. (Laughter)

Is it true that you have a treadmill in your office? How often do you work out?

I've been running since I was 12.

Running away from women? (Laughter) Or running with women? (Laughter)

There has not been a single week that I have not run since that time, even abroad. Lunch time or afternoon break. Really, if I can't [run] at least twice a week, I don't have the same energy level. In winter, I run in the gym.

I just saw marathon a year. There's a line 25 marathon every year in Cebu. When I first entered the marathon when I was 12, I was the youngest finisher. That was my very first marathon that's why every year I participate. Depends on my condition, I usually join either 10 or 10K.

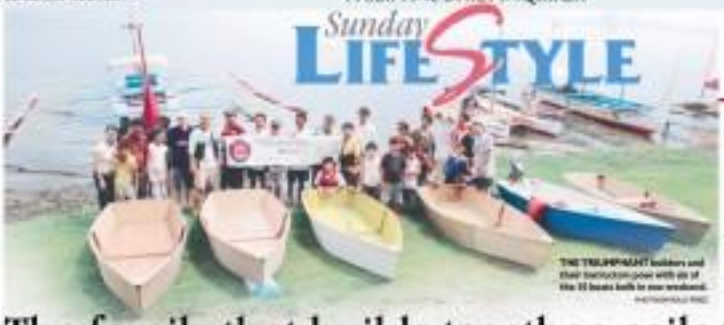
How do you do in the marathon?

Oh, now it's just to finish it. (Laughter)

If you're in a foreign country, what would you want to see first?

My ambition is always to go running in one of their landmarks.

Sunday LIFESTYLE



THE TRIUMPHANT builders and their instructor pose with six of the 15 boats built in one weekend.

Boatbuilding becomes a weekend bonding activity for Dad, Mom, kids and even the help at the Taal Lake Yacht Club in Talisay, Batangas

The family that builds together, sails together

By Constantino C. Tejero

THE SCENE WAS SOMEWHAT surreal. Imagine your housemaid building a boat. And your grade-school kids and mother-in-law, too.

That was what we came upon last weekend in Talisay, Batangas, as nine families piled and jammed in the cottages of the Taal Lake Yacht Club during the family Boatbuilding Weekend organized by the Philippine Home Boatbuilders Yacht Club (PHBYC).

The event was the first ever in the country. A popular activity abroad, in which families and groups come together with a fun, achievement-oriented project—building their own boats in two days and using them on the same weekend," Family Boatbuilding Weekend was pioneered by Woodenboat Magazine in the United States.

It took people like businessman Kelly Ibero and telecommunications executive Boy Aquino, both amateur sailors and backyard boat builders, to finally bring the international activity to the country.

One of the founding members of the informally formed PHBYC, Aquino built his 11-ft dinghy and learned to sail only in June last year. A few months later, he won first place in The Inc Bristol Taal Volcano Regatta, Antique class. (Which just goes to show that building your own boat and sailing it, too, is a breeze.)

"Unlike in exclusive yacht clubs and other more expensive outdoor hobby groups," he says, "PHBYC members take pride in sailing our own home-built boats, canoes, dinghies and speedboats on a shoestring budget. Some have even built three-masted and practical boats for less than the price of a cellular phone."

Simple designs

For the event, this had invited not just families but also Boy Scout troops, companies, schools, fraternities—as so to develop teamwork, creativity, camaraderie, thrill, then awkward superposed for the demographics of those who signed up for the weekend.

The activity was mainly geared toward middle-income families, thus registration fee was set at only P4,500, inclusive of boat kit (precut marine-plywood panels, lumber, fasteners, epoxy resin, paint), yacht club entrance fee, safety gear (life vests, goggles, gloves), quality instruction from volunteers.

A boat can hardly be completed over one weekend, but PHBYC hastened the process by lofting and presawing most of the panels and parts of the boat. Also, it had chosen two simple designs of small boats with a carrying capacity of 2-3 persons, or four if little children.

One was Summer Breeze, an award-winning design by David Zbeda of an all-around dinghy that can be rowed, sailed or fitted with a small outboard motor (chosen for ease of building, good carrying capacity, versatility). The other was the 8-foot Canoe, a flat-bottomed, tipsy-style design by Mike O'Brien (perfect personal boat, as it is light and easy to carry and handle).

Each family was asked to bring two hammers, two flathead screwdrivers, two Phillips screwdrivers, a manual or power drill, two 2-inch paintbrushes. Other tools were made available during the event, which was sponsored by Gerd Rhetos Epoxy and Handyman.

The whole household

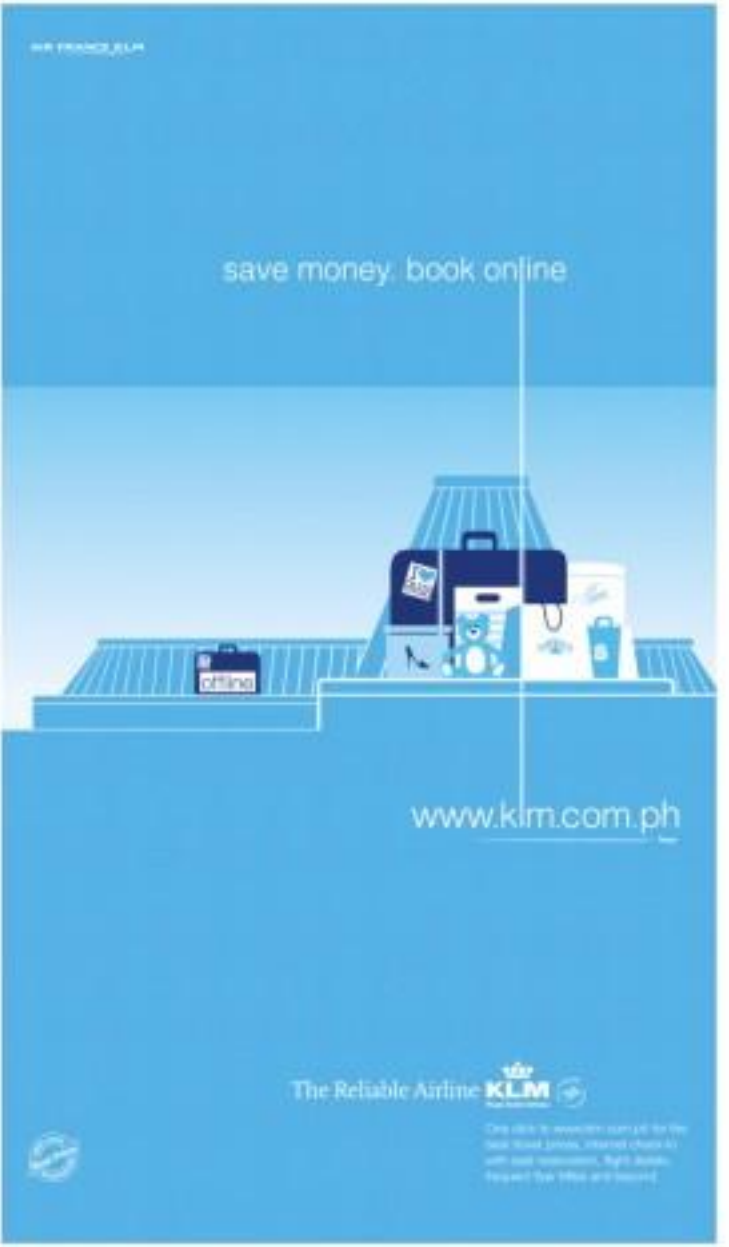
But these were not just vacationers on the family bonding. These were carpenters who came in their 30s—one was a financial service-

THE FAMILY'S

AMATEUR: Aquino and backyard boatbuilder became instant skippers.

AIR FRANCE KLM

save money. book online



The Reliable Airline KLM

Step by step

FAMILY of your boyfriend are here, joined to make the cake of the boat. Kids help in spreading another grade candy coat.

THE FAMILY are attached to the cold ship frame and a water glaze of boat.

KIDS ASSIST are slayer Nilo Bautista gets help from son and daughter in fixing sails purely on the mainsail with stainless steel screws and eyelet.

The family that builds toge

THE LAKE has no current, thus ideal for frail boats and amateur sailors.

sails toge

From page 6

mont, an art gallery owner, a chemicals manufacturer, construction contractor, real-estate developer, owner of a design company, proprietor of a shop of gun supplies.

Some of them lugged along not just their kids but also their parents, answered househelp. A boat can handle cheated a bit by bringing along a professional carpenter, and with parents or tools yet. Others brought along their friends, a brother-in-law, an aunt. And the family driver, of course, could lend a hand.

The little kids were no less of help. In the afternoon, they had fun sanding their family boats. By evening, they were already painting them.

We suspect most of those who came were not the respected families because at least one spoilt pretension: that boat ownership is only for the rich, not to say that boating is a hobby of the rich.

But whether rich or poor, as they sailed to building their boats, the workmanlike mentality appeared to be doing it for the family. They worked from morning through the night, determined to finish and sail the next day, as though family honor depended on it.

Some didn't stay overnight but also take their boats home to Manila, to finish at their leisure.

In the afternoon of the following day triumphant builders carried their finished boats to the shoreline. There was a ceremonial christening, a boat-christening ceremony and picture-taking.

The boats were tested on the water for leaks and balance. And soon everyone was zooming or sailing with the kids at the wheel.

Return to water

At the heart of the PBBFC philosophy is the desire of owners to return, sidewall up to the waterline of the Philippines being one of the islands and the rural memory of Filipinos is one of waterways.

They foresee potential members "finding by boat is highly economical, more so than by car, as well. No traffic, no toll fees, and no gas cost—the wind is free! While traveling by boat, the journey is usually as enjoyable as the

CHERRIE Pegoia, who lost a leg to bone cancer as a child, is founder of a training and racing program for disabled sailors, a kayak enthusiast, and an award-winning sports rifle shooter.

The family that dines together, stays together

FAMILY bond at the table. Family meals can be an opportunity to develop strong parent-child relationships and family connectedness.

CONNECT. Time spent at the table is time well spent.

FAMILY BONDING AND TOgetherness are promoted by the new Coca-Cola ad campaign, "Bonding in Buhay Coke Bukasan Mo."

The campaign advocates the Filipino family bonding around the dinner table.

Family mealtime is a great opportunity for parents and children to spend quality time together and reconnect with each other.

Many studies prove the advantages of the family eating together.

"The Importance of Family Dinners," a decade-long study conducted by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse of Columbia University, reports that shared meals result in lesser risks of teenagers developing substance abuse problems.

The findings show that teens who eat with their families five to seven nights a week are half as likely to smoke, drink, and use illegal drugs than those who don't.

Teens who have frequent family dinners are also likely to perform better in school. Their studies show that almost 40 percent of these teens average As and Bs.

The effect of shared meals depends not just on their frequency but on their quality as well. It isn't in the sharing of food but the sharing of each other that makes mealtime quality time.

The Columbia study notes that 57 percent of the families they surveyed eat dinner with the television on. This figure rises to 65 percent for families that dine together less than three times a week. Teens in these households are more likely to develop bad study habits, substance abuse problems, and a feeling of disconnectedness from their parents.

The power of sharing not just food but conversation is easier to control, and strengthening to come together is waived.

Serving best part of the dinner table for many generations, Coke is an established meal companion and staple. With its new ad campaign, the nonalcoholic brand aims to reinforce playing a role in the Filipino family tradition.

MOTHER knows best. Coca-Cola's newest TV commercial encourages the family to get back to the table and spend time together.

BONDING through Coke. Coca-Cola's newest TV commercial with a heart-warming song is a values-filled advertisement.

ether, ether

AND more for the maiden voyage...

FINISHING the craft at the end of the day

SLIGHTLY overloaded... (a) make sure not to go too far, and don't forget to wear your PFDs (personal flotation device).

HOMEBOY Romeo de Leon and his kids Noah first and carry their boat to the water.

FURnished educational books, puzzles and other games will stimulate a child's imagination.

CHILDREN can have fun with wholesome electronic games and many other unique toys.

DRIVE'S Fun House has a kid-size village.

New toy store in QC mall

KIDDIE'S TOYS & LIBRARY at the Ayala Market Market! in Tagaytay City and SM City Bello is the first mall-based daycare facility.

Retail arm of the store is a cozy (but looks almost real. Kids will enjoy "visiting" the former, posing (through the dumpster, frolicking in) and climbing down into a sea of balls.

A new branch of Kiddie's Toys & Library is set to open May 3 at Trinoma Mall in Quezon City. It will carry branded mains high shelfs and figures, but so find dollhouses, remote control robots, large toy boats and vehicles, the latest interactive toys, wholesome electronic games, and many other unique toys kids would love to have in their rooms.

Stimulating the brain

Kiddie's Toys & Library carries fun and educational books, puzzles, and other games to stimulate children's imagination.

The store's well-trained staff ensures that kids learn as they have fun and with its basic biometric fingerprint recognition system, parents are assured that only authorized persons can pick up a child after play.

Kiddie's Toys & Library is the latest activity center concept by Diwin's Fun House, a role-playing center with branches in various malls in Alabang, Laguna, Cavite, Cebu and Bacolod.

Diwin's Fun House may be the most unique mall-based daycare facility in the country today with its immersive imagination system.

The facility has a mini-size village with a hospital, salon, convenience store, fire and police departments, and other play houses makes the entire center.

Believing the principle that children develop a sense of responsibility through role-playing, Diwin's Fun House provides realistic but safe toys.

At the "convenience store," kids fill a grocery cart with toy canned goods, mini-appliances and other items. A child playing doctor wears the proper costume and has his own stethoscope.

He/she tends to a patient in a hospital bed.

Diwin's Fun House has branches in other parts of Metro Manila, Laguna, Cavite and Bacolod.

REALISTIC but safe toys let the "children develop a sense of responsibility through role-playing."

JOANNA with Kevin

CECILE Van Beuzekom's Marian and Ben

CECILE'S playroom for boys

JERSYDALE DELGADO'S library cabinet; Mikayla with fish

Spaces for kids

A FILL IT UP! DEPOT in Shangri-La Plaza, As part of the month's renovations, the gourmet lifestyle mall is mounting "Spaces for Kids," a lifestyle exhibit showcasing modern living spaces for kids as designed by selected celebrity moms with their children in their design inspiration.

The exhibit features top designer moms Arleen Aleman, columnist and fashion designer Cecile Tuason-Ang Bryant, young actor mom Gaile Ilarde-Montes, beauty titan and model Patty Betts, entrepreneur Jessica Delgado-Daarol, model and beauty queen Jersydale Arenas-de Leon and TV host Daphne Oseña-Paez.

To be showcased are nursery rooms for infants, bedrooms, playrooms and a study room complete with the latest state-of-the-art gadgets.

The exhibit will run until April 30 at the Level 4, Store Hallway dominguezmall.com. Call 6317502.

PATTY BETTS'S bedroom for boys; (above) Patty with Emilia

DIGITAL IXUS
Where style meets substance

Canon
Delighting You Always

Uncompromising precision in a slim new shape.

The New Digital IXUS

Some people have the vision. And some people have other things. But the people who use both, I guess, use the new Digital IXUS 70. Measuring only 21.5mm x 56.6mm, it features the superior lens to instead of a conventional lock and load open lens. The result is a level of clarity, sharpness and precision unprecedented in a digital camera this slim. What's more, it comes with the powerful DIGIC II imaging Processor for fast and accurate operation, and a new Face Detect 2.0 that helps you see and compose your photos better. It even has you do quite fast functions for shooting spectacular looking group photos. The slim yet sharp Digital IXUS 70. Who says you can't have it all?

10 Consumer Years of DIGITAL EXCELLENCE

Canon Image Nation SUMMER07

'America's Next Top Model' judge Nigel Barker in Manila

THIS MAY, SM MEGA Malls, is bringing in Nigel Barker, celebrity photographer and permanent judge of America's Next Top Model.

"With an activity lineup filled with insider tips and industry knowhow, this lifestyle event is sure to spark the interest of our style-conscious shoppers," says Annie Mallo vice president and deputy group head Rowena Tanseliani. "It's just another plus we give our patrons—something more to watch for lives of our customers."

Now on its 8th cycle, "America's Next Top Model" is not only a successful TV show, but has evolved into a flourishing fashion empire with the Philippines now part of the many countries sponsoring the model search.

Like the participants of "ANTM," the judges, whose witty and controversial comments add spice both to the models' lives and the show, have been thrown into the spotlight since the show's first run. "America's Next Top Model" list of judges include supermodel-host Tyra Banks, runway expert J. Alexander, trend-minded Twiggy makeup artist and photo director Jay Manuel, and celebrity photographer Nigel Barker. Each judge's specialty is crucial in determining who makes the final cut.

The presence of Barker in "ANTM" surely makes the show inspiring and, to an extent, educational for aspiring photographers. Before delving into photography, Barker was a model who did the London, Milan, Paris and New York runways for a decade before he transferred to the other side of the camera.

Knowing the rudiments of modeling and having a trained eye for what works are what has helped Barker build a name and an independent reputation in the industry. He is now enjoying immense success in his creative crown, with an office called Nigel Barker Studios in Manhattan's trendy Meatpacking district and countless fans in public events like NO. Interview said Lucky, plus advertising projects for clients such as Proctor Gamble, Ted Baker, Mondo Miller and more.

The model-turned-photographer will wonder Manila's glamorous shopping destinations—Greenbelt 3 Park on May 30 at 7 p.m.; and Alabang Town Center activity Center on May 31 at 6 p.m. Along with Professional Models' association of the Philippines (PSOP) head Sam Ong, Nigel will openly share his years of experience in the fashion world to global Filipinos.

This event is open to anyone interested in photography, modeling, beauty and the fashion industry. Barker is set to conduct a live makeover plus a talk covering the do's and don'ts of photography—the right way to pose, the flattering angles, how to use body parts and more to enhance one's look—with PMAP models on hand to demonstrate his points. There's also a Q&A portion where one can inquire about anything from proper lighting for a shoot to how to avoid the camp.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

THEN: Cousins Regina, 6, Sylvia, 7, and Teresita (the author), 5 with Sylvia's brother, Tony, 3

NOW: Teresita, Regina and Sylvia at Arrocerros Park

'Las tres Marias de Arrocerros'

They are cousins who have become best friends and closer than sisters

By Cleti Rivera
Contributor

CHARLIE HAS HIS ANGELS; Lolo Pochay had his three Marias—her first granddaughters from the oldest three of nine boys of the Rivera-Reyes line. No one was actually named Maria; it was just an affectionate way of branding the three of us.

There was, first, Sylvia, then the oldest one, Lolo Ang, then Regina, anything two years later. Even the second one, Tuning, three me, Teresita, a year later, then the third one, Nining, ninety-one in the family thought as the bedtime prayer[illegible]—and we did be special—the daughters Lolo and Lolo never had. There had been a daughter after Regina's dad, but she had died at age four, a few months before my own father was born. Poor Lolo must have gone through a hell of a postpartum.

Formative years

I don't know exactly how it all came about, but we [illegible] to live our formative years with Lolo and Lolo Ang after our parents, except for Sylvia's widowed mom, had moved out of the ancestral home. We became close that entire—we were each other's best friend, something that made Lolo especially [illegible] and others to the family began to [illegible].

Thanks [illegible], except [illegible] Lolo Pochay," [illegible] would remind [illegible] when they saw us together, even when we had all become grown-ups themselves.

It seemed a lifetime ago that we had lived in Lolo's front garden, which, in our minds, no doubt made [illegible] by comic books, had been transformed into a jungle, full of dangers and challenges. The tall, white Kalachuchi tree was the garden's centerpiece and itself our own tree house. It's thick base was framed by three trees of the biggest and most angular [illegible] Numerous others formed [illegible] lines of stepping stones along the borders of the [illegible].

The rules were clear: Once we stepped on to the [illegible] stone, we were safe from the monsters of the perilous waters that were actually the expanse of [illegible] grass. Regina chose to be Tarzan's [illegible], Sylvia was Gamilla, the jungle girl, and I [illegible], Queen of the Jungle. As a [illegible], we raised the [illegible] and protected it from intruders. We never walked on grass; we swam. Lolo always got a laugh watching us through the [illegible] of the house, and she would pull [illegible] from her French reader lessons or some book of poetry to search or play out our fantasies.

When it came time for us to climb into the big drums by the [illegible] garden walls, Lolo would pretend not to see. She knew it signaled the closing of the day's adventures both before and [illegible]. The world was still [illegible] free, and we felt safer in the [illegible] of water from top and rain than the [illegible] ground just around the tree. Submerged, we [illegible] about plans, [illegible], and other matters of jungle state. After [illegible] had been reached (we ruled by consensus), we stared one eyes and surrendered to the pleasures of jungle spa.

We spent summers in Bataan, where our grandparents had farms and rotating [illegible]. We sailed on the [illegible] and slept in the captain's cabin. Still, it was then or on the farms we dealt it was a treat to watch the [illegible]. In truths, the dolphin drew by ship side. It was an easy to love nature growing up with our grandparents and uncles who were knowledgeable about animals and plants. Regina's father loved sea planting, Sylvia's dad was an agricultural graduate, and [illegible] promised for a while to [illegible] going into journalism. My own dad loved flowering plants; he also fished and hunted, as did all his brothers. Vacations always brought us close to nature.

Alfresco classroom

Lolo's garden was an open-air classroom. By [illegible] so much and sometimes help as she [illegible] it, she taught us respect for nature. She spoke to plants, flowers, caterpillars, bees, even pests.

She knew her plants. The substantial doesn't want too much water, the flowering plants need full sun, the never were plowed, removing aphids and crabs from [illegible] with her bare fingers. As lush as it was, her garden was neat and organized.

It seemed only natural, I suppose, for us [illegible] two Marias, after we were done with our own private gardening, to get ourselves involved in the creation of a flower path in the

The world's a stage for these kids

HUMAN College's Child Study Center presents "Ang Pinitong Kaharian."

FOR STUDENTS OF THE HUMAN College Child Study Center (CSC), the end of the school year means going onstage to act, sing and dance for a different kind of commencement ceremony—the CSC Annual Play.

For 23 years, the CSC has been staging theatrical productions with themes that highlight the school's commitment to its core values of truth, justice, peace, gender equality and care for the environment. Instead of a graduation ceremony at the end, blowing the first curtain raising procedures, the CSC has always chosen to end the school year with a major play production.

This tradition started in 1982 with an adaptation of Cinderella. Mounting the play challenged not only the acting capabilities of the students, but the theater skills of all involved. Aside from acting, singing, directing, lighting and costume designing, the faculty and administrators also dared, reject the skills to write original scripts based on traditional Filipino folklore.

Based on tradition, the impressions of homeroom teachers throughout the year's many activities, and the children's own inclinations, roles are doled out in proportion to kids' skills. Gregarious children who love to dance, sing and act are given showcases that have more lines and require more serious courage like little Coco are assigned roles that are equally important but require less movement. Reclusive darlings like shoemographer is such a way that shy children get a chance to be on the "spotlight." In CSC plays, there are no minor roles.

Maria Stella Alfaro, a CSC alumna and now the mother of one of this year's cast participants, was part of the very first CSC play.

"I was supposed to be Cinderella," she recalls. "It was every little girl's dream to play Cinderella, but at that time, I was really shy and did not want to have a blessing scene with Prince Charming. So, I became the narrator and a fun dancer in mind."

"During practices I would be nervous and self-conscious. Stella reminds. "I did not like being in the limelight. But I soon became accepted. It overcame my shyness. I memorized my lines and delivered them with confidence. Looking back, I am grateful for the experience. The Play boosted my self-confidence. It helped me conquer my fears and it is still the same to me."

The CSC Play has always been a family event that gathers parents, grandparents, siblings, and even during performance nights, cheering and snapping pictures at every chance. And now, 23 years later, Stella experienced how proud her parents were when she was performing. Recently, she stepped into her alma mater's Marian Auditorium to watch her son in the play.

In celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Mission College and the CSC Annual Play's 28th anniversary, the CSC presented the year "Ang Pinitong ng Kaharian," which told the story how Queen Marina, her followers, and even her enemies, overcame obstacles and conflicts to find the heart of the true, which grants everlasting peace.

"My 5-year-old son loves performing! Boasting Parang," one of the main roles," Stella says proudly. "He's usually a very shy boy but he has come out of his shell. I'm very pleased at how the discipline of the practices groomed my baby to be a well-behaved boy. I never is glad my parents took me to CSC because I had the pleasure of participating in 'Cinderella.' And now, this experience of seeing my son onstage is an affirmation that I chose right school for him."

A young whiz and his study program

LOOKING AT HIM, YOU'D THINK that Lorenzo Quiogue is just like any other 10-year-old boy. A bundle of energy, playful, and sociable, he is an avid basketball fan, likes to play video games, and thinks that Manny Pacquiao is "great."

Looks, however, can indeed be deceiving because beneath that rare, cheerful face lie years of dedicated study programs. After serving a friend that he showed a bright-eyed innocence and an advanced skill set in Mathematics, the blond Moreno realized the idea to his parents, to which they agreed. So, in the middle of classes, Lorenzo was enrolled at Kumon.

Currently, Lorenzo is in Level H of the Math program of Kumon, which is trigonometric functions, and the equations of lines and circles. His amazing specialty is the Mental Calculation level, he has been awarded trophies, medals, and certificates, enough to fill an entire room. In addition to all the awards he has accumulated, Lorenzo is also the number one student in the Kumon Binan program, among all fifth graders in the country. Wrapping facts considering he's only turning 11 this November.

More than all the accolades, however, it's the the lessons he learned from the after-school study program that are most impressive. Kumon has instilled in this 10-year-old the values of studying hard and having a clear perspective on his talents. Kumon also encourages Lorenzo to share his talents with others, a place of service that Lorenzo has taken to heart.

He plays the part of tutor to his struggling friends, a shoot Lorenzo is not only accepts, but embraces.

"Why are you still practicing? I thought the tryouts were done?"

"Wala, I know. I'm practicing for next year's tryouts," Lorenzo explained.

Being an achiever at both his regular school and Kumon takes a lot of hard work, but in fact, Lorenzo is far more than just a smart tech geek.

He is also an avid musician, adept in playing the violin, saxophone, and xylophone, and the glockenspiel. In addition to music, Lorenzo is also a sports enthusiast, with basketball, tennis, and boxing as his favorite sports.

Due to the increasing number of school homework and other curricular requirements, not to mention the work he has to do for Kumon, Lorenzo's parents had entertained the thought of temporarily pulling their son out of the study program. But Lorenzo himself was becoming too demanding for their son.

"My wish here is to have fun outside of school and you know how it is to balance right?" says Lorenzo's mom. "It's an joke to study, there's just sometimes, might go into stress that we'll find was becoming too demanding for their son.

Lorenzo also understands that he can't excel in everything. Especially a child of his age, especially if he has been so used to high praise at that early stage of his life, might have difficulty dealing with rejection. Any parent that has a son somewhere has a child would be stunned to think that way too, and Lorenzo's mother, Ina Quiogue, sees no difference.

She recounts that when Lorenzo took out for the DBP basketball tournament in school, he didn't make the cut. Realizing that he might need encouragement at home, Lorenzo did left work early only to find his son practicing in front of his driveway.

"Why are you practicing now? You didn't make the team, remember?"

"I know. I'm practicing for next year's tryouts," Lorenzo explained.

In his initiative at both his regular school and Kumon takes a lot of hard work, but in fact, Lorenzo is far more than just a smart tech geek.

He is also an avid musician, adept in playing the violin, saxophone, and xylophone, and the glockenspiel. In addition to music, Lorenzo is also a sports enthusiast, with basketball, tennis, and boxing as his favorite sports.

Due to the increasing number of school homework and other curricular requirements, not to mention the work he has to do for Kumon, Lorenzo's parents had entertained the thought of temporarily pulling their son out of the study program. But Lorenzo himself was becoming too demanding for their son.

"My wish here is to have fun outside of school and you know how it is to balance right?" says Lorenzo's mom. "It's an joke to study, there's just sometimes, might go into stress that we'll find was becoming too demanding for their son.

Lorenzo also understands that he can't excel in everything. Especially a child of his age, especially if he has been so used to high praise at that early stage of his life, might have difficulty dealing with rejection. Any parent that has a son somewhere has a child would be stunned to think that way too, and Lorenzo's mother, Ina Quiogue, sees no difference.

She recounts that when Lorenzo took out for the DBP basketball tournament in school, he didn't make the cut. Realizing that he might need encouragement at home, Lorenzo did left work early only to find his son practicing in front of his driveway.

"Why are you still practicing? I thought the tryouts were done?"

"Wala, I know. I'm practicing for next year's tryouts," Lorenzo explained.

Being an achiever

Saving tips from a self-confessed spendthrift

By Mildred D. Villapando
Contributor

I REMEMBER CALLING myself a "one-day millionaire." I would shop for clothes at a cost of three to a gift to myself either things become stretched in work, go on night-outs, buy snacks for fellow-travel mind, or get my friends small presents when I felt like splurging.

Everything changed when I started a family. The need to save for the future dawned on me. From a compulsive shopper, I literally "disowned" myself of the luxuries I used to enjoy all because I felt I should put my mother for my own's needs.

But recently I realized I had relegated myself a portion of my salary for the past years so I could have money now and still be made out least asking for help from my parents when I fell short on cash.

It was no verbal confession. That realized that even minds, and I could not forever be dependent on them. Besides, at my age, I should be giving back.

That's it, the habit of saving is not all easy especially when you must wrestling that tends to bet more for friends' income of the belief that he worked hard for it anyway.

Saving takes so much discipline and will power. I bet many people like me want to save but need help, too. One idea feeds a sense of security knowing you have a small fund you can bear from when an emergency arises.

So where does one start? Here are some tips that I've come to understand with him, which might also come in handy for everyone.

1. Spend only what you can afford to pay on an as to run into the trouble of borrowing money or piling up credit card debts.

2. Try to not familiar neighbours in. stead of mobile phones, no matter how convenient it may seem at the time. Because calls may own cheap but until all you see them or remember for a month!

3. Distinguish between wants and needs. Focus on your priorities don't mistake wants for needs. Needs are pretty simple to identify—those items that are necessary to maintain your life (shelter, food, clothing, transportation. Think on the those things that you can live without.

4. Go through your drawers and see what you can sell and snatch, rather than buy a new outfit. Also, stick to buying classic pieces. Don't get quickly convinced by fickle fashion trends.

Keep track of expenses

5. Learn how to budget. You will be able to keep track for more accurately of what you have to spend and what you don't.

6. But in, not out.

7. Little Mr Piggy will survive! Put all those spare coins in there and you'll be surprised at how quickly you can save money.

8. Get motivated and start thinking and running orders than putting the it your membership is pictured inside. Decide to meet with a friend for go window if you cannot motivate yourself.

9. When it is on sale, stock up. Of course this only applies to those items that you use on a regular basis. Stocking up on an item whether you use once a year doesn't make sense (and it robs you of spending money not to mention shelf space).

10. Buy enough leather stocks of essential home supplies, at least one pack extra (i.e., soap, toothpaste, detergent, tissue). In this way every time you do your groceries or you won't be frustrated when you run out of stocks at home. Chances are, you'll buy on impulse and it would turn out to be more costly and time consuming.

11. Don't give into little temptations. When you are trying to save, avoid going into shopping centers unless the budget is as wrong and hard to resist.

12. Have a savings account or separate your accounts. This will help you to not get all excited when you open a store for food fortunes, tempting you to spend what you are trying to save. If you can't see it, then the temptation won't be there.

And to help you to your desire to save, Philbank, the country's second largest savings bank, improved their savings account products by ensuring that you can do your transactions with much ease. Its passbook savings account was made convenient for clients by creating e-tickets where depositors can withdraw from any of its branches nationwide.

Interbranch transactions are simplified and fast so if you're dealing with two or more branch of account, Pera, with the added bonus of earning on the passbook, you can write down your details on every transaction. You don't have to remember to refrain every so often to make a particular deposit or withdrawal.

Remember that saving requires sacrifices and discipline. You can only start saving when you are motivated enough to achieve your goals.

TEEN CAMPS. Clot, 14, Sylvia, 15, and Regina, 17, at the Colegio Mayor de Ruhro Privado, Model C. Sevilla, 1956.

Is your baby getting the best sleep possible?

JOHNSON & JOHNSON, THE WORLD'S baby care expert, continues its heritage of helping mothers nurture their children with its latest healthcare range.

The products were developed after a clinically-tested bedtime routine that has proven to improve significantly baby sleep.

Medical studies conducted in the United States showed that 20-30 percent of children had sleep problems. The problems ranged from resistance and difficulty to fall asleep to frequent awakenings to irregular sleep patterns to the most extreme night terrors.

Sleep problems are not to be taken lightly as part of growing up as sleep affects baby's physical and mental development and disposition.

Hormones promoting physical growth are released three times more during baby sleep. Studies have shown that sleep promotes muscle growth, improves protein development, cellular generation, and repairs organs.

Dr. Michael Sarne, a sleep specialist and vice president of the Philippine Society of Sleep Medicine, said if baby's sleep was interrupted, there could be a change for normal, as the cycle of the release of hormones needed for optimal growth.

Achieves

Optimize development also benefits from sleep. Clinical tests indicated that babies with good sleep habits grew up to be better achievers in school, had exceptional memory and learning skills.

The part of the brain responsible for memory, a sense of well-being, and sound reasoning when others also depends heavily on sleep to operate well. This is why a baby's sleep period baby is usually cranky and moody if not lethargic and sensitive. Babies have pleasant dispositions when there is quality sleep.

Some babies can be very particular about their sleep requirements. One-year-old Andrea, daughter of Johnson's Baby brand manager Pia Abadia, has to be carried up between Mom and Dad, with the lights dimmed and her room singing. Otherwise she would have several crying fits throughout the night.

Television personality Euphoe Cunia-Pearl's two daughters gave them different baby sleep experiences. Her eldest slept through the night letting her and her husband enjoy uninterrupted sleep.

The second baby, however, kept her and her husband awake with her intermittent sleeping patterns.

Rosanna Uriz-Gonzales, host of the Johnson's Baby Bedtime launch, was becoming increasingly concerned about her three-year old daughter Carmen's sleep disruptions. Gonzales considered five pediatricians but did not get a definitive diagnosis.

Doing her own research, she speculated that Carmen might be having night terrors. She was glad that Johnson's Baby Bedtime sleep experts and research could finally shed light on her daughter's condition.

Gonzales said she noticed that when the baby was very accustomed during the day and did not get enough downtime (left to her), she would get very nervous. Even when they were days before she never left home, she will feel them.

Sleep routine

Knowing how critical it was for baby to have good sleep every night, Johnson's Baby partnered with pediatric sleep experts on a clinical study that resulted to a routine that could help baby fall asleep easier and sleep longer through the night.

Renowned psychologist and pediatric sleep expert Judi Mitchell, PhD and executive director of the Sleep Disorder Center in the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, United States, led the clinical study that evaluated infants self-soothed to meditate sleep problems.

Mothers were asked to test a bedtime routine consisting of a five-minute bath, two-minute massage and quiet time. They then recorded their babies' sleep habits and patterns after this routine. After three weeks, the study found:

- 37 percent reduction in babies' length of time to fall asleep
- 37 percent reduction in babies' awakenings
- 21 percent increase in babies' longest period of uninterrupted sleep

At the end of the study, 100 percent of mothers surveyed said they enjoyed performing the routine; 98 percent believed their babies' sleep improved and 95 percent confirmed the routine.

The same routine and test was done with the new Johnson's Baby Bedtime Bath and Lotion—aromatherapy with a new fragrance called Sweet Calm that contains passion blossoms. The clinically-proven Johnson's Baby Bedtime Routine has three steps:

- It starts with a warm bath with Johnson's Baby Bedtime Bath with its unique "Sleepytime Scent" formula that is a gentle on the eyes or water. This induces relaxation.
- The bath is followed by a soothing massage with Johnson's Baby Bedtime Lotion which also helps keep baby's skin naturally soft. A massage not only releases stress and anxiety but intensifies the bond between mother and baby.
- Mother and baby then have a quiet time together, cuddled by mother, talking quietly or reading a book to the baby. Humming a lullaby or playing some soothing music.

For over 130 years, Johnson's Baby has been dedicated to helping parents around the world give their babies a happy and healthy life. With the new Johnson's Baby Bedtime Range, mothers and babies get a clinically-proven routine to ensure the child gets the best sleep possible and all the benefits it brings.

'Las tres Marias de Arrocerros'

From page B-1

heart of Manila, where our family originally came from. Lola did not simply tell us stories about beautiful old Manila, she instilled in us a certain sense of responsibility for it. To start checking from here and pollution, my sister cautioned, if I may say so thought, our eyes first legacy.

Today, as happens, we the tres Marias are responding to 9/11 call from the corridors of the home, now 12 years old with more than 8,000 square meters of ancestral living things in residence. The house has outlived it, and the landowner have begun to eye the area as ready way for a building. Where we like young people, I wondered.

What a savvy cavalry we are. Marias: nervous; make Regina, headstrong and determined, because the brains and proud worthy, standing up to the mayor during the entire controversy. I myself would underdone, thoughtful mother-nurse—in the conviction that everything happens for the best. Sylvia, though not much older, has always been the motherly, responsible one, according to our Spanish literature professor in Madrid. Sylvia says she philosophy, Regina the no-nonsense type who gets things done, and I the happy romantic. I'm the mediocre.

Alas, the recession calls for Charlie's Angels. Our early jungle training was to be illusory to be practical. A useful note, including at the worst of Metro Manila's crumbling, crumbling up everything that it found in front that historic truths—even to Marian devotion are elevated by good. Sylvia speaks of Lola, as one of all of us the monuments like this, historic and embellished, Regina goes over to continue the same responsible.

Lola always had something to say to lighten things up and even trivializing the situation. "If she saw this," Sylvia says, she would most likely say in exasperation, 'Oh, my goodness, my virginity, culture!'" "Oh," I add. "Our fashionista!" Sylvia and I begin to chuckle, prompting Regina to throw us her Mother Superior glare. But once told what it was all about, she herself manages a smile through super-nova.

"Sequel and scandals!" Regina says. But we are grateful for small mercies, also as we are not to serve the Lord ground zero and start over from complete destruction. "Nothing and quarter him no songs." Then Lola's words to fill our spirits. She always believed that something good is bound to come out of all adversities.

Relying from us, we feel unequipped again as we look forward to our next move... perhaps a home park in Quezon City.

We love Manila despite home throes our bubble-air could use, but this one isn't left out. We have used hearts to use, but we can't quit.

What would Lola say? She herself didn't let it quit and she won't.

Cherish your memories with funky photo albums

WHEN PHOTO ALBUMS FROM NATIONAL BOOK Store make great gifts! The fresh kinds of memories keepers boasts of well-crafted, hand-finished designs that put a scrapbook-y feel. The bright and eye-catching cover are adorned with gems and glitter—a sure standout in any shelf.

These photo albums come in five variants that hold 60 to 120 (4" x 6" size) pictures. There is a classic, punch-work patterned cover fit for any occasion, a rose and glitter baby album, and three vibrant designs in stainless shades that truly suit the seasons.

Available at all National Book Store branches nationwide at P179.75 and above.

SURVIVOR at the Good Shepherd Convent in Tagaytay

Sanctuaries *of solitude*

Breaks are important for harried mothers

By Cathy S. Gobon Gabaldo

Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.

Mark 6:31

FOR SOME MOTHERS, SHOPping and an hour at Starbucks do the trick. For others, it's an hour at the salon, an hour on an hour at the spa. Whatever it is that brings you solitude, keeps you sane and helps make a better mother out of you, go ahead and just do it.

Why are solitude breaks important for mothers?

Lynn Hybels, wife of pastor and Christian author Bill Hybels, says that it doesn't matter whether mothers of all ages need to see more into the complex world of the 21st century, it is a passionate and empowering, grounding relationship with God. I have a need in my heart that my wife calls my Presence of Solitude akin to Superman's need-question in the Arctic where he would retreat when life in the Metropolis became too much. Others, My own "Survival" is when I can off to volunteer. I went some spiritual peace and quiet. It is a place where I can be alone with my thoughts and a quiet corner where I can reflect and pray.

Once in a while, I like to seek out new spaces of solitude away from my home to get refreshed and inspired. A mother's work is never done, more so if she has a career and a home to balance. Taking care of yourself, I have learned, has become a necessity if I want to be able to take care of others well. There is nothing selfish about going away for a few hours, a day or even overnight, if that is what it takes for you to replenish your energy in order to parent well.

Here are some of the few quiet places I have discovered in and around the city where mothers can go to find rest and inspiration.

Field of Faith

If you have half a day to spare, hie off to the Field of Faith (FOF) in Calauan, Laguna where you can sit at the foothills of the mountain and reflect by the chapel or the meditation pool. FOF, which is privately owned by the Gregorio family, was set up by Monsignero Bernie Magsaysay, a two-time cancer survivor and her daughter Carissa. There is a beautiful condition of the location of the Cross throughout the property where the sound of birds and a gentle breeze fill the lush greenery of the field. It is a retreat complete with an 850-meter Rosary path with traditional and meditation of the different mysteries.

In addition, there is a labyrinth hall, an early Christian meditation and prayer bed made of vibrated concrete slabs, a 200 pool, the complex has 20 air-conditioned rooms with individual bathrooms and my room that can accommodate up to 26 people at one time. Visitors who wish to spend their entire stay with the Lord, can come for the day or spend a night in one of the well-appointed cottages in the retreat complex. From Quezon City, it is a 45 minute drive.

Email: field_of_faith@yahoo.com or call Irene Quinsos at 0917.776.3864 for inquiries.

Good Shepherd Convent

My children know whenever I need to make an important decision that has some repercussions on my life or my career. "Mommy's going up to the nuns," is how my two likes to put it. The Good Shepherd is my place of rest. Right above Ortigas and it's a modern view of Tuol volcano, a night in this spent with the nuns in deep thought and prayer never fails to helping me get back my bearings.

I usually leave Manila very early in the morning and take breakfast somewhere in Tagaytay then go and spend the day with the nuns in their beautiful garden that overlooks the lake. I can spend hours just looking by the balconies, contemplating my life, trying to discern what it is that God wants me to do next. Is the early mornings, or late afternoons, it's soothing to walk the labyrinth and in the process try to unknow the mind and spirit. The author has Mindi Kidd says that moments with oneself are essential to one's well-being. Often we are used to denying or numbing our personal confusion with a flurry of activities because it is not easy to be still. However, and this I have learned the hard way it is always in the stillness that God speaks. But yes, it takes a lot of practice getting there. On my way back from the convent, after spending a day or a night there, I bring home delicious Good Shepherd bake pie or their famous jam and some other homemade sweets that, I'm ready to be a mommy and a wife again. Call 0906-4134287 for more information on their personal one-on-one retreats.

LABYRINTH at the Good Shepherd Convent

CHAPEL at the Field of Faith

A PLEASANT surprise and a refuge

TEA Spa is a soothing place to rest in amid bustling QC

Garden Shelter & Tea Spa at the Crossroads

On my last visit to the Crossroads building on Mother Ignacia St in Quezon City, my life was exactly in that time—at a crossroads. It was a pleasant surprise to find a soothing place to rest in the midst of bustling Quezon City. The best time to come here is late in the afternoon, a few hours before the sun sets. On the outside the building is modern-ugly. It is home to the Branch Girl Fellowship but inside it are several pockets of solitude that surprises the public.

Begin your visit by reading a good book over at the Tea Spa which is a quiet place that serves healthy food (not including tea). From there, you can spend some time in the serene and air-conditioned prayer room where people of various faiths—Catholic, Protestant, born-again—can rest a while and quietly commune with God in prayer. If you are wearied, feel free to subscribe yourself here. If you are in a joyous mood, you can give thanks and praise (quietly though) in a natural atmosphere. And just as twilight begins to fall, you may cap your visit by spending an hour in the Garden Shelter in meditation. Over here you can sit a while to ponder and be by yourself without worrying about bumping into someone you know. People in the Crossroads centre are very respectful of your privacy so be assured that you will not be bothered while you are soaking in some precious solitude.

Visit the Garden Shelter and Tea Spa at 77 Crossroads Building, Mother Ignacia Avenue, Quezon City.

SPACES of solitude where you get refreshed and inspired.

SECRET Garden. Moments with oneself are essential to one's well-being.

STAIRWAY of the Cross at the Retreat Park

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ernesto C. Velarde

SCENES from Best Picture bets, clockwise from left: "Anong Pangit," "Kubrador," "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo." The respective female leads—Marian Sutton, Gina Pareño and Judy Ann Santos—are vying for Best Actress.

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Famas '07 bets

By Marinel R. Cruz

FOUR INDIE FILMS AND A blockbuster movie produced by a major industry player are competing for the Best Picture trophy in this year's Philippine Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (Famas) awards.

Joel Reyes' "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo," produced by Star Cinema, will slug it out with Emil Flerzan's "Anong Pangit" (Jerusalen Manaog/Pablo Biglang-Awa, directors), Cesar Hinggo Pradanovitz' "Kubrador" (Jimmy Abrahano), MLR Films' "Kalmadan" (Jeffrey Jeturian and Eight Elephants Productions' "Tribunal, Umaaraw" (Richard Arellano), according to Famas president Ian Dedoy.

The awards show was originally set this month. But it has been moved to June, or after the elections. Dedoy told Inquirer Entertainment on Friday "We're having difficulties communicating with the artists. They're so busy campaigning for their candidates, or they're candidates themselves."

Secret balloting

Finishing out the nominees took four months, Dedoy said. Starting January, some 20 Famas members reviewed films shown in 2006. The screeners filled up score sheets, which were placed in envelopes and sealed. The envelopes were handed over to a nine-member tabulation committee tasked to choose the top-5 finalists for each category.

The winners will be determined through secret balloting to be conducted by an independent accounting firm.

The Best Director bets are Reyes, Jeturian, Abrahano, Arellano Biglang-Awa, and Joyce Bernal ("Don't Give Up On Us").

For Best Actress: Judy Ann Santos ("Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo"), Shaina Sevilleno ("Anong Pangit"), Gina Pareño ("Kubrador"), Cherry Pie Picache ("Kalabukan") and Claudine Barretto ("Tribunal").

Best Actor: Johnny Delgado-Peralta ("Kubrador"), Phillip Bernal ("Don't Give Up On Us"), Jericho Rosales ("Pinoykano"), Rene Aguscillo ("Jerusalen, Gumaca") and Cesar Montano ("Tribunal").

Best Supporting Actress: Rosemarie Sun Lee ("Don't Give Up On Us"), Liza Lorena ("Anong"), Gina Pareño ("Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo"), and young talents Andi Eigenmann ("You Are the One") and Maja Salvador ("Tribunal").

Best Supporting Actor: Allen Dizon ("Twilight Dancers"), Rendell Ramos ("Tribunal"), Tommy Abuel ("Don't Give Up On Us"), Jimmy Cuenca ("Anong"), Allan Paule ("Kubrador").

₱400,000 grant to Cannes entry not yet final

THE ₱400,000 GRANT THE FILIPINO Independent Film Festival Committee (IFFC) is planning to award Indio Films for the world premiere of "Foster Child" at next month's Cannes International Film Festival in France, is still subject to approval.

Bryan Claus Christian Dayrit told Inquirer Entertainment she has asked Indio producer Bobbie Tan to write a letter to the committee, requesting for an extension and stating his reasons. The letter will be forwarded to the Film Development Council of the Philippines and discussed in a board meeting with FDCP chair Rolando Nolasco on May 9.

The FDCP funds grants to films upon the recommendation of IFFC. Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kalmadan," Adolfo Alix Jr.'s "Tirador" and Auraeus Solito's "Ina," were each awarded ₱400,000 earlier for their participation in other international festivals.

Broadly, the grant covers only two people—the director and the lead actor. But because "Foster Child" will be premiering in Cannes, Dayrit said Tan was exploring the possibility that he could join "Foster" director Brillante "Dante" Mendoza and lead actor Derek Ty Pic Picache, plus maybe film distributor Perlito Lapus and one of the executives as well.

FDCP executive director Jose Lacaba and Dayrit may also accompany the Philippine delegation. —Jocks Olga

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The most famous and well-pampered pooch gets separated from his owners and ends up as a mascot for a hapless fire station
Watch how this man's love-hound change the lives of a 13-year old boy and his dad forever and turn their sullen area literally (Woof).
NOW SHOWING

A sweet lifetime of jazz

By Pedrito Concepcion
Contributor

RICHARD Mark and Annie Read at the record launch

LIVING BACK IN NEW RICHARD MEDIUM without the things he's known doing lately.

An example is the CD "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" (Manna Records/Universal), which Mark co-produced with wife Veronica for Annie Read, her mother.

Read, 73, whose stage name is from her own mother's real surname, is a US resident and still does weekly gigs there as a jazz singer. She was account recently said Mark seized the opportunity to record his albums, to recognize Read's considerable talent as an icon whose musical talents have been acknowledged around the world.

For these weeks, Mark oversaw the recording in his own studio, gathering a space but solid lineup of session musicians, helping in the arrangements and even singing in one of the tracks. The result is a testament to the emerging life-changing force that jazz has brought up-and-down and life-forward.

Snappy salsa

The 12 songs in "Rainbow" represent some of the most prolific composers in a golden period of songs like Americo and mainstream jazz, from the 1930s to the '50s. A number of tracks are known for having been sung by the likes of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald and Bil in Holiday, to name a few.

Read interprets the songs in a lilting tone, sounding like a cheerful diner who still sees the world with childlike wonder. She plays it sweet with the lyrics, breath some of the notes, for instance, in "It Could Happen to You" (Johnny Burke-Jimmy Van Heusen) and "It Might as Well Be Spring" (Richard Rodgers-Oscar Hammerstein II), giving pianist Bobby Franklin and drummer Mac Ehrens the impulse to engage in brief solos.

In "Take Diff" (Duke Ellington-Billy Strayhorn/John Mercer), Read and the band deliver with the combined beauty of lap lyrics and an arrangement that allows her to still, inventive-ring pleasure from a different song ("Cloud I Have You") and, again, setting the stage for singers to let loose their soulful side. Bassist Ronnie Mathews and Roger Hayness. The latter's walking bass lines and Read's scatting bounce back in a thrilling mood in "September in the Rain" (Harry Warren).

The duets, with Mark Kidman's daughter Isabelle in "Lullaby of Birdland" (George Shearing-George David/Weiss) and Marilyn "It Had To Be You" (Isham Jones-Gus Kahn), hints at how the years may have taken toll on Read's voice, but at the same time lending it a graceful maturity that keeps a swinging pace along with her younger partners. Isabelle has a youthful voice that can go classic, while Mark is captured in an inspired burst of joyful bonding.

Wistful confession

But it's the ballads that reveal Read's soul. In "God Bless the Child" (Billie Holiday-Arthur Herzog Jr.), she transforms what a wonderfully a black woman's spiritual and material insecurities into her own wistful confession. What's unique to the way Read sticks to a natural, lilting accent, pronouncing key words so closely as to affect local ears more honestly.

The same goes with the title track (Harold Arlen/E.Y. Harburg), which, Read said, is the song she wouldn't live more personal dedication. It encapsulates the life she has lived, and the hopes she nurtured amid trials and tribulations.

As in the way she punctuates the other tracks with her very peculiar — gulch episodes, the moment by which she ends "Rainbow" a life-wavering or uncertainty more eyepiece.

This is only her second album in the course of a lifetime preoccupation with music. And it took her one to give what she can Brazil deserves as my heart for being called grand dame of jazz in these parts.

Weekly tribute

Similarly, Mark has been giving back to a very deserving group of musicians who have elevated Cinco to playing fame.

Jerry Nedumatilam to own Mark's fan is Jimmy in Arcadia 3, Richard presents a band composed of Eddie Katindig (vibraphone), Mr. Ramon Jocson, Brandon Acker (piano), Boness Gaud, Jhon Ibrahim (on bassist) and Jojo Contreras (conga) playing alongside a young, talented batch of 12 jammers, John John Cardenas (guitar) and Aries Cruzada (saxophone).

Even with many drawn, the performances relies on invention and improvisation, with the older birch generously giving space for the younger ones to shine, notably Cruzada who had blossomed to an artist born in search of his name. He plays and has sax, enough to make one believe that jazz is safely embedded on Philippine soil—despite the predominance of rock n roll.

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Sir Paul rich no more

LONDON – FORMER BEATLE SIRPAUL McCartney has slipped down the list of Britain's music millionaires after the Sunday Times, which compiles the rankings, made a 160 million-pound ($320 million) allowance for a possible divorce deal.

McCartney is in the midst of a divorce battle with Heather Mills McCartney.

"Sir Paul McCartney's wealth falls this year to 725 million pounds," the Sunday Times newspaper said on Friday.

The list is published on April 29 every year. Top of 2007 among pop/music figures is Clive Cobbi, record label boss behind acts such as Jimmy Spears and 'N Sync with a fortune estimated at 1.3 billion pounds.

Rising up in second place from third was Andrew Lloyd Webber (750 million). McCartney slips to third from second. Simon Fuller, creator of "Pop Idol" and "American Idol," is fourth (405 million), equal with Cameron Mackintosh.

Madonna and husband Guy Ritchie are in sixth position (270 million), followed by Elton John (225 million) and Rich Ingrid (215 million).

In terms of bands' millionaire wealth, the Beatles relax with more than one billion. The Rolling Stones have a combined wealth of 570 million. U2 is not far behind with 467 million pounds before Bono, the Irishman, could. – Reuters

'Twas just a kiss

NEW YORK – Actor Richard Gere denied, during an interview on Thursday (Sat. Oct. 28 in the Philippines) on the Indian chat show "Aap Ki Adalat" that he had kissed Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty on the cheek.

Gere stroked Shilpa Shetty's hair and kissed her several times at an event in New Delhi last week to promote AIDS awareness. A court in the southern city of Jaipur ordered his arrest.

Gere, 57, told cable channel Comedy Central's Jon Stewart, "I'll bet you've got the scoop." – Reuters

ALEC Baldwin with Kevin O'Donnell on "The View"

Attacked by stalker

LOS ANGELES—An obsessed fan tried to run over the husband of Sandra Bullock in an attack at the couple's home in California on Thursday.

Police said Marvin Valentine, attempted to mow down Jesse James during the incident.

"Mr. James fended the suspect leg on their driveway," officer Jim Benevenuto said. "He asked her to leave, but instead she got inside her car and tried to run him over. We are treating it as assault with a deadly weapon." – AFP

Consulting with Dr. Phil

LOS ANGELES—After Bobbi with Jesse set to apologize to his daughter on national television on Friday (Saturday in Manila) for calling her a "disruptive little pig," according to excerpts from a pre-taped ABC interview.

Appearing for his first TV interview since he left a running water-mud message to his 11-year-old daughter that was made public last week on the Internet, Baldwin, 40, also said he was ready to give up acting after nearly 30 years, "to devote myself to the cause of parental education." – Reuters

Meanwhile, television they spent 18. Phil McGraw reminded that Baldwin had called him for advice. Reuters

Bobcat breaks attack

LONDON—Hugh Grant has been arrested and questioned by police after a photographer accused the British actor of attacking him with a tub of baked beans on Tuesday.

Photographer Ian Whittaker told the Daily Star tabloid that he and Grant, 46, clashed near the star's home.

Whittaker said Grant shouted and lobbed him before lobbing the beans. The paper printed photos of Grant with a plastic tub of food smeared over his head. – Reuters

Top of the tabloids

VINA MORALES

The top stories in local tabloids this week (and why we are stressed, if we are stressed):

•Kung ang thing Pinoy selebrasyon ang usaporan sa US, a Vina (Morales) hold nang hahk. Hahk! Fine come all those other guys come home with glowing reports? But it's true that Vina is underrated here.)

•Gonna, saan sanyasohin ang sarungan Bokey.

•What ahong artists kay Nathaniel – Gruta.

•Dennis Trillo, may gi-nawang sira Ulo?

•Regine Velasquez-Alcasid, ang sexbait-sexpot talk on Oga (Ahmad).

•Regine, still mum about love life. (Are the tsikgirls?)

•Regine, (pobe pangyonahan ji Oga (Oh.)

•Regine, sabak sa sabak sa kanal with si Oga sa June?

•Regine, todo-bigay kay Dede (Pacunal). (Huh?)

•Regine, ang panalam sa GMA 7 times na mag-pi-pirate sa ABS-CBN.

•Pero, pinag-uusapan ng ABS-CBN na mag-pirate sa GMA 7.

•"Pano Kita Ilihim," starring Regine and Dedu, opens May 20. IAL sa lightsaversal.

•Ms. Dental, feeling kinky si Pia Guanio? (Dahilan sa pinsi nya sana.)

•Sabong abroc marami sa komment (Dahilan sa pinsi nya sana.)

•Angel Locsin nanlong sa ja-mahi-ngi. "Hmmm." (Good girl.)

•Pot P Eatos, bagong bisday Bedday.

•Oyo Sotto, naghi-hinge, naiting gift kay Angel Locsin. (Hi, break na sila. Si he?)

2 DAYS TO GO!

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1 ROCKY BALBOA
2 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
3 MISS POTTER
4 NORBIT

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6 BRIDGE to TERABITHIA

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3 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
4 NORBIT
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6 ROCKY BALBOA

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2 TMNT
3 RESERVE
4 PATHFINDER
5 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
6 ALPHA DOG

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1 PATHFINDER
2 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
3 MISS POTTER
4 ALPHA DOG
5 WILD HOGS
6 HAPPILY NEVER AFTER

'Pitong Paglalakbay' presents fresh take on travel and tourism

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VIEWFINDER

Annie U. Aure

GMA-7 SHOULD BE CREDITED WITH TRYing to do something different on the eve of travel programming by way of its April 29 special, "Pitong Paglalakbay."

Most travel shows limit their attention to tourist sights, but "Pitong Paglalakbay" added fresh elements, like interesting hosts and activities.

To enjoy the show, however, we had had to have our patience tested. The special was slated to be telecast at 10:50 p.m., but it is now only past 11 p.m. when it finally started screening.

By that hour, we were really sleepy, so we had to work hard to keep our eyes open so we could see more.

In the show finally, our TV channels should be more respectful of the viewers' right to schedule-oriented undertakings.

After all, TV networks spend so much time and money promoting and more specifically, hour-to-hour, day-to-day programming when the shows aren't telecast on time, and they have to adjust their schedules to accommodate the networks's tardiness.

We suspect that some other viewers weren't as patient as we were, and simply decided not to go to sleep before the special started. This would have not only included the people who watched hard to come up with the show.

Back to the special itself. Its leisure segment featured remembering Lone Ranger's flying horse Silver, which was left behind by the pilot's only guest stars were complemented by the host's welcome participation in the finishing of one of the plane's engines to close hours.

Too sketchy

On the debit side, here was sometimes too goofy for the feature's good, and having been to Bohicon recently, we can say that the segment's coverage was too sketchy.

Perhaps, if left to much time had been taken up by Lorrie's "Bonsoy" antics, there would have been more time to more productively use in doing visual justice to Bohicon's many riches.

The Cotsiqui segment was similarly disturbing. Still to be Angel Manuel's "coverage" of Makeyabang Buddhism, which centered on mainly on its animal rodeo. The chest was unique, and Angel should be credited for courageously getting into the swing of things by lowlier viewing half to the get-ahead. But, again, the treasure dropped when Makeyabang announced, like in Miss Universe, necessary indigenous people, etc.

We can accept the fact that the special chose to be fresh, informative and less predictable in its travel coverage, so it was commendable not "sight-seeing-travel." But the selection wonder could have been better served if the segment's hosts were not so narrow-minded, their tedium to the mild, mild Ewe.

Travel tips

In this connection, we also noticed that the special had given any travel information and tips on how to get to its destinations, the costs involved, etc. Again, this may not have been its main interest, but for a traveler could end up feeling frustrated if his interest were whetted, but he was kept in the dark on how he could enjoy the travel experiences first-hand.

After exhibition, the special flew to Hungary, where its cameras' concentration was on sailing. In Bohicon, it focused on a beautiful coastal trail to several minutes.

In Delhi and Damascus, stalked among were the sights of cities. The show's hosts have ended in Seoul, where the focus was on the region's economic centers and sight-seeing.

All told, "Pitong Paglalakbay" was a fun romp through our archipelago. Its hops GMA-7 can happily at an on-the-fine time slot as the news-viewers can get to enjoy it.

ROUNDUP

MTV VJ search

MTV IS LOOKING FOR TWO FRESH FACES and word-pronunciation to be your MTV VJs.

The lucky guy and girl will be joining the likes of Cindy Kimberly, Dennis Rene, JC Concepcion, Mariel Rodriguez, Marc Abaya, Francis Magundayao and Sarah Meier.

Candidates should be between 18 and 24 years old. Auditions start at 12 p.m. on April 29 at SM Mall of Asia and SM Megamall.

New QTV shows

A new romantic-comedy series and two new cartoons are now part of QTV 11's weekend TV programming.

"I'm a Nightingale" is a romantic comedy series about a young male nurse who falls in love with a doctor, airs Saturdays at 2 p.m.

Sundays at 9:30 a.m., Sofia Tarob and his dog star in "Dog of Flanders." At 11 p.m., "Galaxy Invaders" an action-packed anime about a small-town military thrust unexpected back in time.

Video sale

CD Item Store, an audio and video sale, starts May 4, 5 and 6 and continues on selected Saturdays and Sundays of the month.

The sale—80 percent off on assorted CDs, DVDs, VCDs and cassettes... will be held at the 10th floor, 1487 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City (Inner: Effective Center—in the ground floor).

Whitaker meets Mandela

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—Academy award-winning actor Forest Whitaker met former South African president Nelson Mandela on Friday.

At the start of his visit, he received a rapturous welcome from university students.

Accompanied by his wife Keisha and their daughters, the star of "The Last King of Scotland" was a guest of South African tourism promotion officials. It was his first trip to South Africa.

Whitaker and Mandela met privately at the former president's office. AP

Pre-Clooney starrer

LOS ANGELES—Brad Pitt will reunite with "Ocean's 12" co-star George Clooney in the latest film from Joel and Ethan Coen, it was reported Friday.

Pitt has signed to star in black comedy "Burn After Reading," which tells the story of a CIA agent who loses the disc of a book he is writing, according to entertainment journal the Hollywood Reporter.

It was not clear what role Pitt would play in the film, the report said. Frances McDormand, who won a best actress Oscar in 1996 for her performance in the Coen brothers' "Fargo," will also star in the film. AFP

BRAD PITT

Eric Bana in crash

HOBART, Australia—Australian actor Eric Bana and his co-driver were uninjured Saturday after they crashed their car during an around-the-state rally in the southern state of Tasmania.

Bana, 28, who is competing in the Targa Tasmania rally with co-driver Tony Sansome, crashed his 1974 Ford XB Coupe into a bank, but both walked away from the crash, officials said. AP

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20 Dismal weekday
21 Rendezvous
22 Love-em-all
23 Hotel room amenity
24 How a workaholic works
25 Hanging, sweet-talked
26 Cartoonist Guisewite
27 Cartoonist Trudeau
28 Cartoonist Lynch
29 Cartoonist Davis
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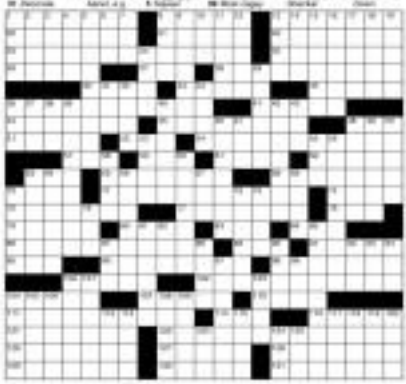

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SPIDER-MAN LIVE! AT TOY KINGDOM

Meet the wall-crawling superhero in person during his visit to selected Toy Kingdom stores from April 29 to May 5.

Every hero has a choice: *To face the darkness, or be consumed by it.* This May, the greatest battle lies within!

A complex web of secrets, vengeance, love and forgiveness, ***Spider-Man 3*** – the third installment in a series of blockbuster films based on the Marvel comics superhero – is a riveting adventure that will transport Philippine audiences to thrilling new heights starting May 1, 2007.

In *Spider-Man 3*, Peter Parker has finally managed to strike a balance between his devotion to MJ and his duties as a superhero. But there is a storm brewing in the horizon. His newfound self-assuredness is jeopardized when he faces the battle of his life against two of the most feared villains ever – Sandman and Venom – whose unparalleled power and thirst for retribution threaten Peter and everyone he loves.

To complement its Meet & Greet event, Toy Kingdom is showcasing a wide range of collectible games and sports gear inspired by *Spider-Man 3*.

SPIDER-MAN 3

Live!

Meet & Greet SPIDER-MAN

Date	Venue	Date	Venue
April 28	TK Mall of Asia	May 3	TK Southmall
April 30	TK Pampanga	May 3	TK Bacoor
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May 1	TK V-Mall	May 5	TK North Edsa
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All these collectible *Spider-Man 3* items are available at Toy Kingdom.

ENTERTAINMENT

'I don't get the attention that Brad Pitt gets,' says one of Hollywood's greatest actors. 'But I don't need a bodyguard.'

MARIE-FRANCE
Arcilla and Marc de la Cruz star in "Where Elephants Weep"

Pinay in Cambodia's first rock opera and Hopkins as painter, composer

ANTHONY HOPKINS

LOS ANGELES—MARIE-FRANCE ARCILLA, whom we last saw covering the Sundance Film Festival for Iñet TV show, "Cinema ADV," e-mailed us with some good news.

The singer-actress who was one of the headliners of ABS-Broadway's "Shout! The Mod Musical" wrote us: "I've been here in Massachusetts for three weeks now working on a contemporary Cambodian opera, Where Elephants Weep." So, opera. After two years of feeling my face off, I'm singing onstage again. It's a looming process—they did ask for a proposed budget before! But hey, what doesn't kill you...

"Out of a cast of 15, eight are Filipinos. The director is Filipino as well. There are some locals helping out in the show, too—members of the Angkor Dance Troupe and a local Cambodian rapper. The cast is composed of four Khmer, two Khmer-American, one Korean-American and eight Filipinos. Having so many Filipinos in a cast isn't unusual. There are quite a few of us here trying to make our mark, and while no Imee-inspired coups along, it's mostly a Pinoy reunion. I'm working with some great New York actors, including Joe Hernandez, Christine Toy Johnson, Lee Rondon and Marc de la Cruz...

"It would be great to bring more awareness to the plight of the Khmer—their situation has been largely ignored. It's amazing what they are able to create such beauty out of a painful past. The opera is in English and Khmer and is presented with both English and Khmer subtitles.

"The show was composed by Him Sophy, one of Cambodia's master composers. We have Cambodian musicians in the orchestra, one of the maestro's biggest fears is acting in the show and some of the instruments were made especially for the opera! It's really shaping up to be a huge thing for the Cambodian community here in Lowell, home of the second largest Cambodian population in the US, as well as for their home country. It's one of their first attempts to restore public interest in Cambodia and to remind us of the atrocities that happened there. At the same time, the opera hopes to create international interest in Cambodian arts and culture, which are incredibly rich. Their ancient traditions has continued despite the execution of 90 percent of the country's master artists.

"I had no idea I would become an ambassador for this project as I did, and I'm having a wonderful time. You can check out the opera on www.wherewhalesweep.net."

The modern opera, which would have been staged in Boston or New York but is being produced in Lowell because of its big Cambodian population, begins its preview performances in the Lowell High School Auditorium.

Anthony Hopkins used to be an interesting interview subject. A talk with him was one to relish when you might call retired. But there came the great actor's movie period. Now he just laughs off a question as "stupid" and did not bother even to.

The actress's most interesting role (relatively speaking) was as Oscar for "The Silence of the Lambs."

PAGE K2

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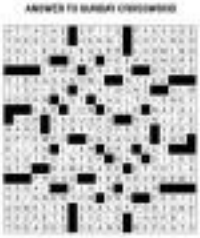


ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

HOPKINS in "Fracture"

Text: Stephan, I don't know.

Is it true that your characterization of Hannibal Lecter in "The Silence of the Lambs" was inspired by **Salvador Dalí**ren and Truman Capote?

No. Neither Daughters. The press got it wrong. When I was reading the script, I sensed that Lecter was a masculine, almost like a killing machine, very brilliant. So I based the voice on composer music in 2001, that disembodied, dehumanized voice.

Speaking of elephants, you worked with her as a young actor. What was your impression of her?

Sparrow Foury had just died so she was feeling a lot of grief. But it was a shame we only took her because she was this big, legendary star. I was 20. I played the war. When I had to have touch with her, I was scared as hell. I expected her to treat me as Black Dynamite. But she was dressed like a people sold, like some queen.

She had this cup on which belonged to Humphrey Bogart as "The African Queen." She had a date from Spencer Tracy. She took me to tears but she was a great occasion, a young woman who stood up for her principles back in the big Communist witch hunt days. She was pretty tough, really tough. She was like Bogart and those birds, all those powerful men. They don't make them like her anymore.

Any regrets at this point in your life?

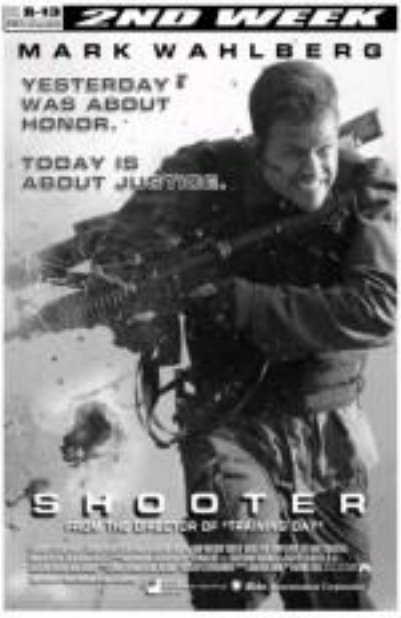
Regret that I wasn't as comfortable a few years ago as I am now, [laughs]. I didn't have confidence was younger when I knew now, but really, no regrets. Life happens and you make a lot of mistakes...a lot of life-altering mistakes. But everything is to some necessity for.

Will you ever come to Asia again?

I don't know. Maybe when my agent comes me. If I get to a stage where I can't remember my lines, then I hope I'll have the good sense to, "Thanks, that's enough." I worked with Lauren Bacall on "The Bonney" I think. She was too old to work all the time. It's the end, it was sad because he couldn't remember his lines. He had to have a prompt and he felt humiliated by it. I said to him, "No, it's fine." Just to understand him he was so ashamed.

This was long after "Hatari!" but he was losing parts; miserable with his life. He died a few years later after that and he died. He had, and it took younger. You think, "Oh, don't do that, learn it closer. You are never having their freedom and you think, why? Just give it to.

E-mail the columnist at rsupplee_1968@yahoo.com and read his Ms. Kitten's Report blog at www.inquirer.net/blogs/ms-supplee/index



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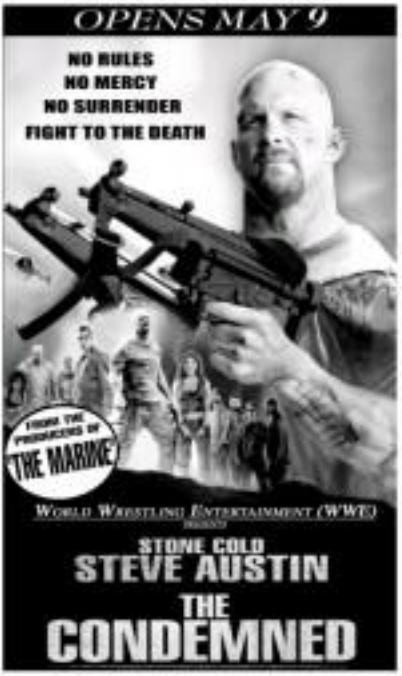

'Ugly Betty' is pretty comely

AMERICA Ferrera in "Ugly Betty"

By Oliver H. Palumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

JUST A TEN MONTHS AFTER "THE Devil Wears Prada," the somewhat outlandish trappings of the fashion world are viewed with fresh outsider's eyes in the new American TV series, "Ugly Betty." This latest reincarnation of the hit Colombian telenovela "Betty La Fea" predictably charts a course into underdogsville territory.

But there are still some pleasant surprises along the way, such as the delightfully witless ensemble. It goes over the top from time to time, but this conspicuous overkill and hilariously tail a repetitive attention to parting down the title character for her unglamorous threads and supposedly unconventional looks.

Familiar

If shows as all-too-familiar high schoolike clique antics, justlike in "Prada," when our Betty (our resident heroine, Betty Suarez (America Ferrera), immediately becomes ensnared as the workplace Weird as someone in the seasoning, newly appointed editor-in-chief, Daniel Meade (Eric Dikkies), Betty struggles between doing actual work and quietly helping out with various troubles.

Daniel landed the job because he's the son of Bradford Meade (John Slattery, CEO of Meade Publications, as the family drama has to derail with being repeatedly thwarted, led by the scheming creative director Wilhelmina Slater (Vanessa Williams). As Betty unwittingly joined the ensemble, our flirt—her effort to actually make Daniel look competent—don't forget—she's forgotten by Wilhelmina and her competing cohorts, as well.

As with any show with such a focused and determined protagonist, "Betty" is wonderfully supported by her family like oftenmore-outspoken father Mark Indelicato, her severe telenovela-watching dad Okay Pineda and her opinionated sister Ayza Diaz) complete the ensemble of her often-would-rather-be-removed from the supposed glitz and glitz of her wardrobe reality. Bill, Betty's patents life-craft without hitches, so her love life, or rather passes for it, suddenly becomes accumulated, thanks in part to the neighborhood hunk.

The hunk part of "Ugly Betty" almost solely rides on Betty's different appearance. She has the last laugh, even when most of the first few episodes show that almost everyone has ridiculed or snubbed at her for sticking out. It quickly gets old, sometimes.

Just because she's not supposed-to-appear, she has to prove herself to them many times over. Many of her office adversaries take comfort in the fact that Betty underwear aren't frilly, or that's the reason. With the exception of Daniel, the good-looking and fashionable people here are contemptuous and emotionally lacking in depth.

Decent

But as the magnetic and charismatic Williams, Williams is wonderfully evil and entertaining. Her secret meetings with a mystery character left a struggle matter plots. Also amusing is Gina Gershon's guest appearance as the curiously-coiffed queen, Hilda.

"Ugly Betty" is easy to get into, as the characters—little dollings allow us to see how recognizably the surfaces as flawed one. Betty is inspired now as the intelligent but glamorous hero who keeps things believable despite obvious exaggeration.

The world's impossibly high standards of "beauty" are addressed decently and charmingly here. Hopefully the show continues that commentary past the first season, doesn't resort to schtick or makeovers just yet.

"Ugly Betty" airs on Studio 23 Sundays at 9:23 p.m.